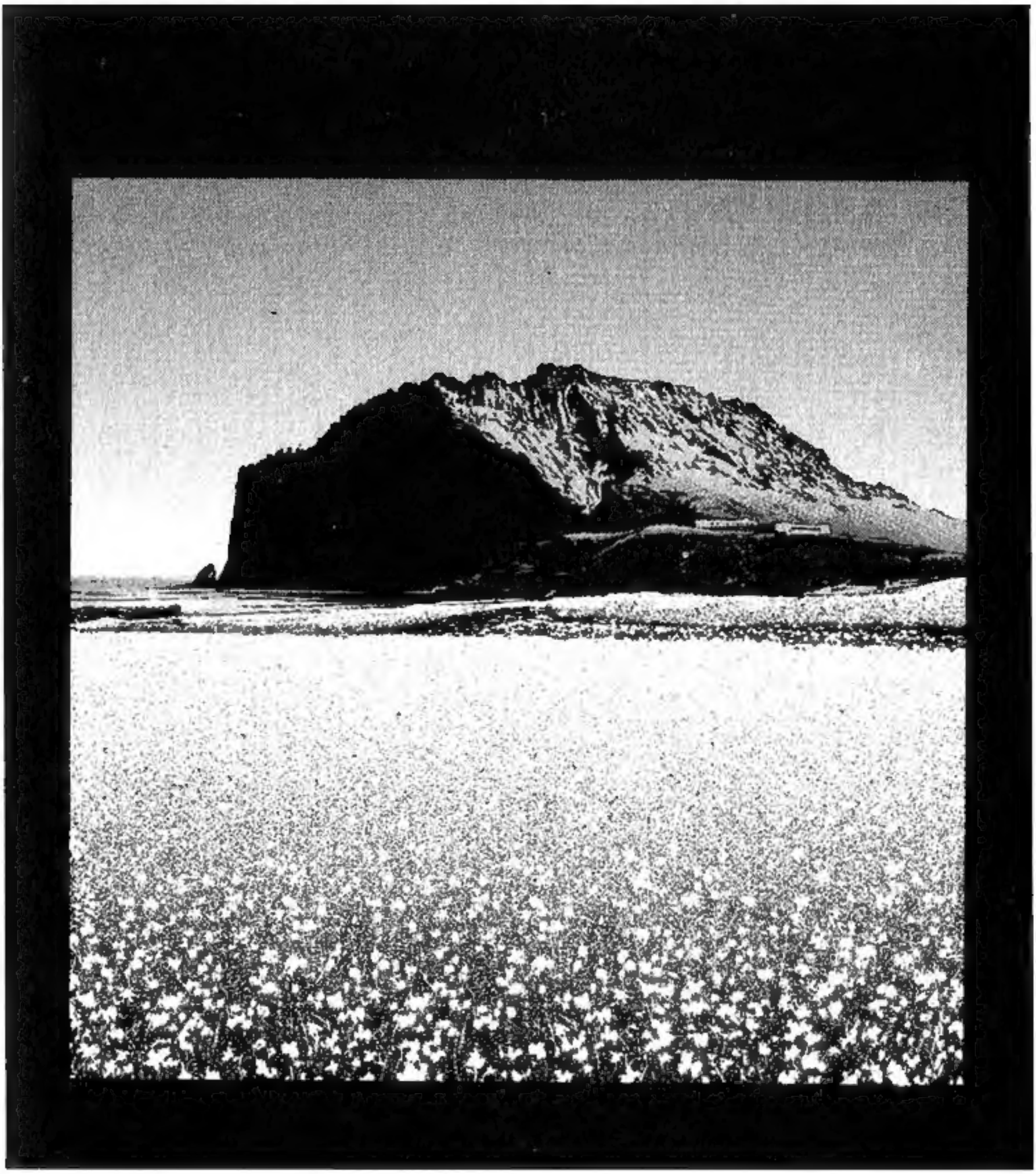
ISLAND



ISLAND

VOL.4

IN-WAN YOUN AND KYUNG-IL YANG

TOKYOPOP®

LOS ANGELES - TOKYO

TOKYOPOP® Presents

Island 4 by In-Wan Youn & Kyung-il Yang

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The Story So Far

Miho, long the hunted, became the hunter as she lured John, a young American exorcist, to Cheju Island where she received his help in freeing a little girl from the clutches of an evil spirit. But more blood was soon spilled, as John was forced into a confrontation with Miho's bodyguard, the demon-killer Pan. As they fought through the streets of Cheju Island, John used his clairvoyance to delve into his opponent's mind, but Pan's final attack was too much for him, leaving him unconscious and hospital-bound.

1989 7/22 11:30 PM
Japanese National Institute of Health

HUFF
HUFF

HUFF
HUFF

HUFF HUFF

HUFF HUFF

EVERYONE'S BEEN WIPED OUT! IT'S A MASSACRE!

WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH FIVE SEPARATE TACTICAL POLICE UNITS ON THE 15TH FLOOR.

MORE BACK-UP WON'T HELP. *CALL THE ARMY!*

THEN WHAT'S THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE FOR? WE HAVE A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION HERE!

YOU IDIOT! HOW CAN YOU TALK ABOUT "SECRECY" AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!

WHO'S THE MEDIA GONNA TELL IF EVERYONE IN TOKYO IS WIPED OUT?!

IT'S A GOD DAMN SLAUGTHERHOUSE!

WHAT DOES ALL THAT NOISE SOUND LIKE TO YOU? BIRDS SINGING?! WE'VE GOT PEOPLE WITH THEIR EYEBALLS MELTING OUT OF THEIR FUCKING SOCKETS.

THE PLATOON WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER!

ARGH!

MY EYES! MY EYES!

AAAAH!

WE NEED A MEDICAL UNIT IMMEDIATELY!

AND, GET THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE DOWN HERE BEFORE I BLOW THE INSTITUTE TO KINGDOM COME!

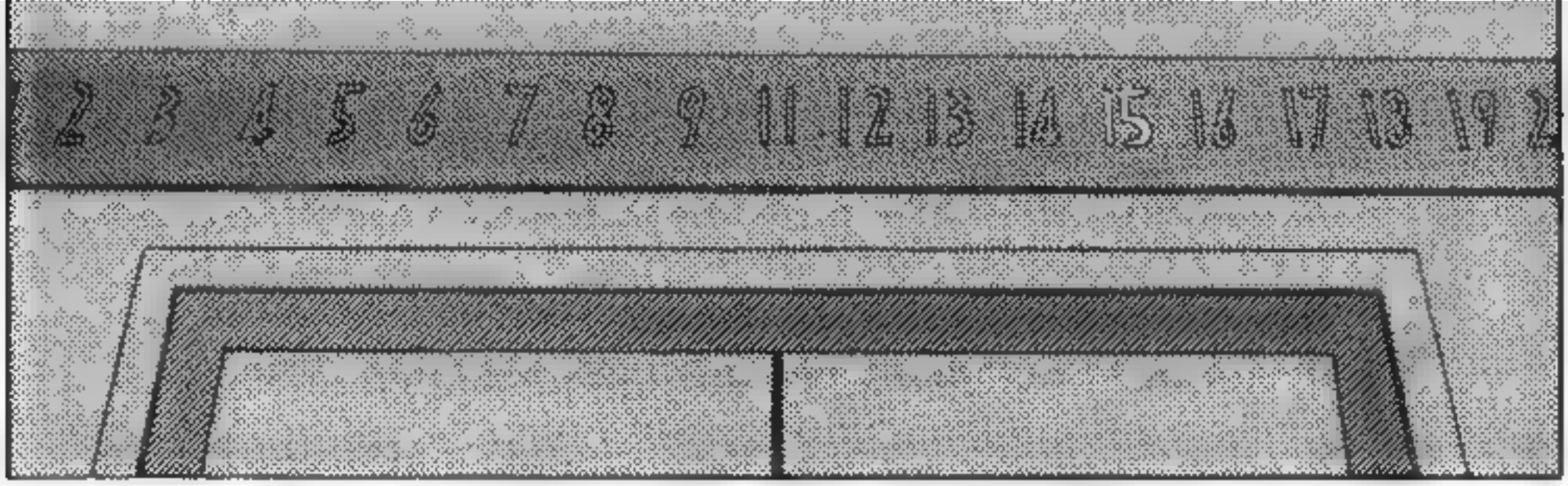
OFFICER MASAO!

WHAT THE HELL IS IT?!

YOU IDIOT! YOU LET A *CIVILIAN* IN HERE?!

WHICH FLOOR IS IT?

WHAT FLOOR IS THE BASTARD ON?



AOOO
SHOOO

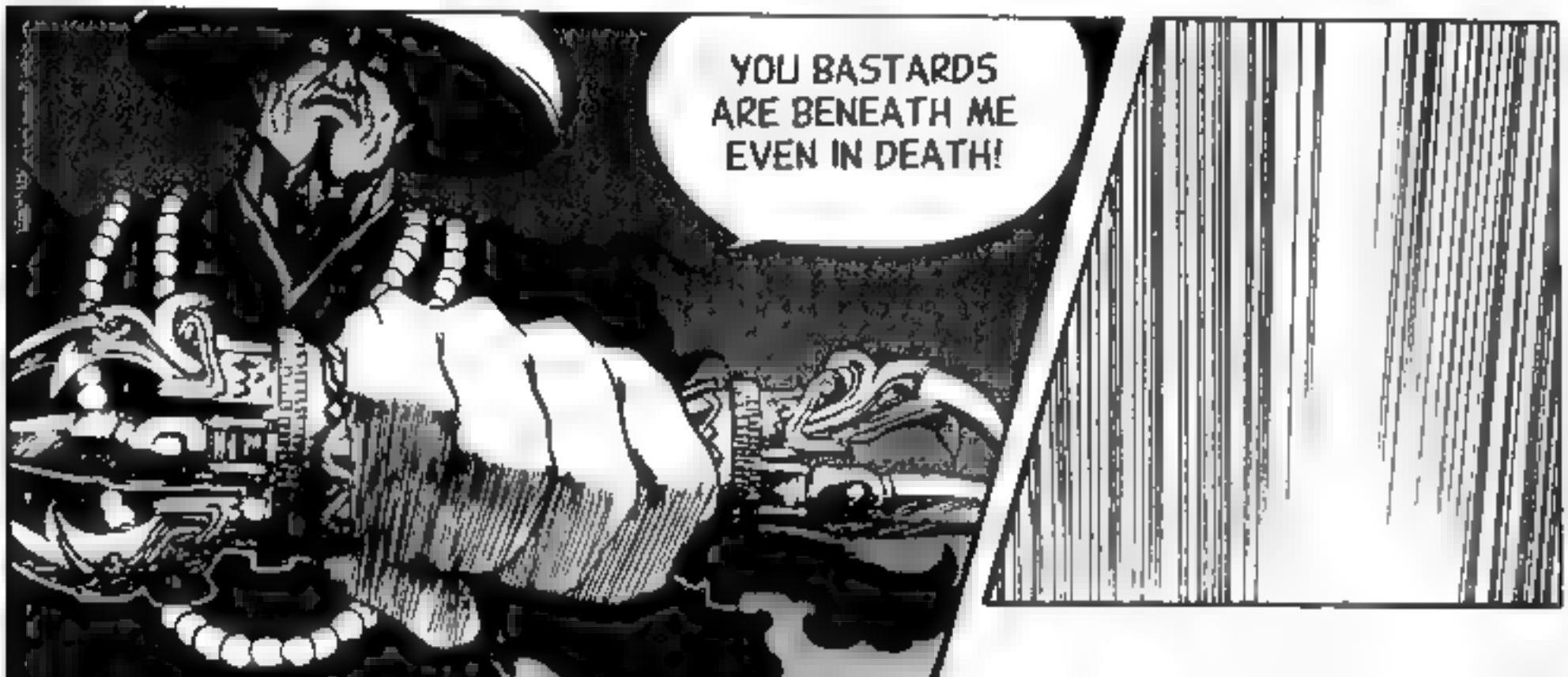
ON ABIRA'G
唵 阿尾羅吽
K'EN
欠

SO WA H'AH
莎訶!!

WHOOSH

Health
Sectio

THERE
YOU ARE...


YOU BASTARDS ARE BENEATH ME EVEN IN DEATH!

BANG

TEACHER WON, THERE'S A CALL FOR YOU AT THE FACULTY OFFICE

TEACHER WON, THERE'S A CALL FOR YOU AT THE FACULTY OFFICE.

TEACHER WON...

ANOTHER HOMELAND
PART 1

Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!
She has become a home for demons
and a haunt for every evil spirit,
a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird
For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries
The kings of the Earth committed adultery with her,
and the merchants of the Earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries

Come out of her, my people,
so that you will not share in her sins,
so that you will not receive any of her plagues
for her sins are piled up to Heaven,
and God has remembered her crimes

From Revelations 18:2-5

LOOK, I'M TELLING YOU... I CAN'T!

FACULTY OFFICE

HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GONNA MAKE ME SAY IT?

PLEASE, TEACHER ■A...

Critical Biography
Collected Poems

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SELLING BAD BOOKS TO STUDENTS!

BUT YOU ARE! YOUR PUBLISHER'S BOOKS ARE FAMOUS FOR HAVING POOR INFORMATION WHILE COSTING AN ARM AND A LEG.

THAT POET'S WORK IS SUFFICIENTLY REPRESENTED IN OUR TEXTBOOKS. I DON'T WANT TO BURDEN THE KIDS WITH ANOTHER VOLUME

HELLO...?

DON'T BE LIKE THAT, WHY DON'T YOU...?

I'M TELLING YOU, I CAN'T.

AH...

DAD?

YEAH, IT'S ME. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?

SEEMS LIKE IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE THE LAST TIME WE TALKED.

HOW'S TEACHING?

HA-HA... I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE A TEACHER.

.....

...ARE YOU CRYING?

I HATE HIM. HE ONLY CALLS WHEN IT'S CONVENIENT.

OF COURSE NOT! WHY WOULD I...?

HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE ROUGH TIME I'VE BEEN HAVING.

ARE YOU WELL?

YES, EXCEPT FOR THE DOCTOR NAGGING ME ABOUT MY BLOOD SUGAR.

HA-HA... SEE, I TOLD YOU TO WATCH YOUR DIET.

UH-HUH... DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT ME?

DAD...

OH, DO YOU HAVE TIME TO VISIT THIS SATURDAY?

THE JAPANESE BUYERS ARE VISITING THE BRANCH OFFICE OVER THERE...

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SHOW THEM AROUND.

IT'S AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR COMPANY TO GAIN A STRONG POSITION FOR OUR NEW MODEL IN THE JAPANESE AUTO MARKET.

I THINK IT WOULD BE A LOT MORE EFFECTIVE IF THEY WERE GREETED BY YOU, RATHER THAN THAT BORE OF A BRANCH PRESIDENT.

BESIDES, IT'S A GOOD PLACE TO START LEARNING THE BUSINESS, DON'T YOU THINK?

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

.....

SO, IS THAT THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE CALLING ME?

FIRST YOU SHIP ME OFF TO THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, AND THEN I DON'T EVEN HEAR FROM YOU FOR THREE MONTHS.

SUDDENLY YOU REMEMBER I'M ALIVE WHEN YOU NEED MY HELP?

I'M NOT DOING IT. WHY SHOULD I WASTE MY TIME?

IF THEY'RE SUCH IMPORTANT PEOPLE, WHY DON'T YOU COME YOURSELF!

THEY'RE ARRIVING ON THE 11 AM FLIGHT.

WE CAN SORT THIS OUT AFTER THEY GET THERE.

SAME OLD MIHO...

I THOUGHT MAYBE SHE'D GROWN UP A BIT.

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

YOU'RE THE THIRD GRADE ETHICS TEACHER, RIGHT?

BEEP

NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M NAMKUNG SANGJUN FROM WORLD PUBLISHERS... AND I HAVE A BOOK I CAN STRONGLY RECOMMEND FOR YOUR STUDENTS.

GET OUT!!

MANJANG CAVE

NOW, THIS TIME PUT YOUR ARMS AROUND THE BRIDE'S WAIST.

GROOM, PUT YOUR CHIN UP JUST A LITTLE.

GOOD, THAT'S PERFECT.

OHMIGOD!!

OOOH...

AAAH!!

AAAH!!

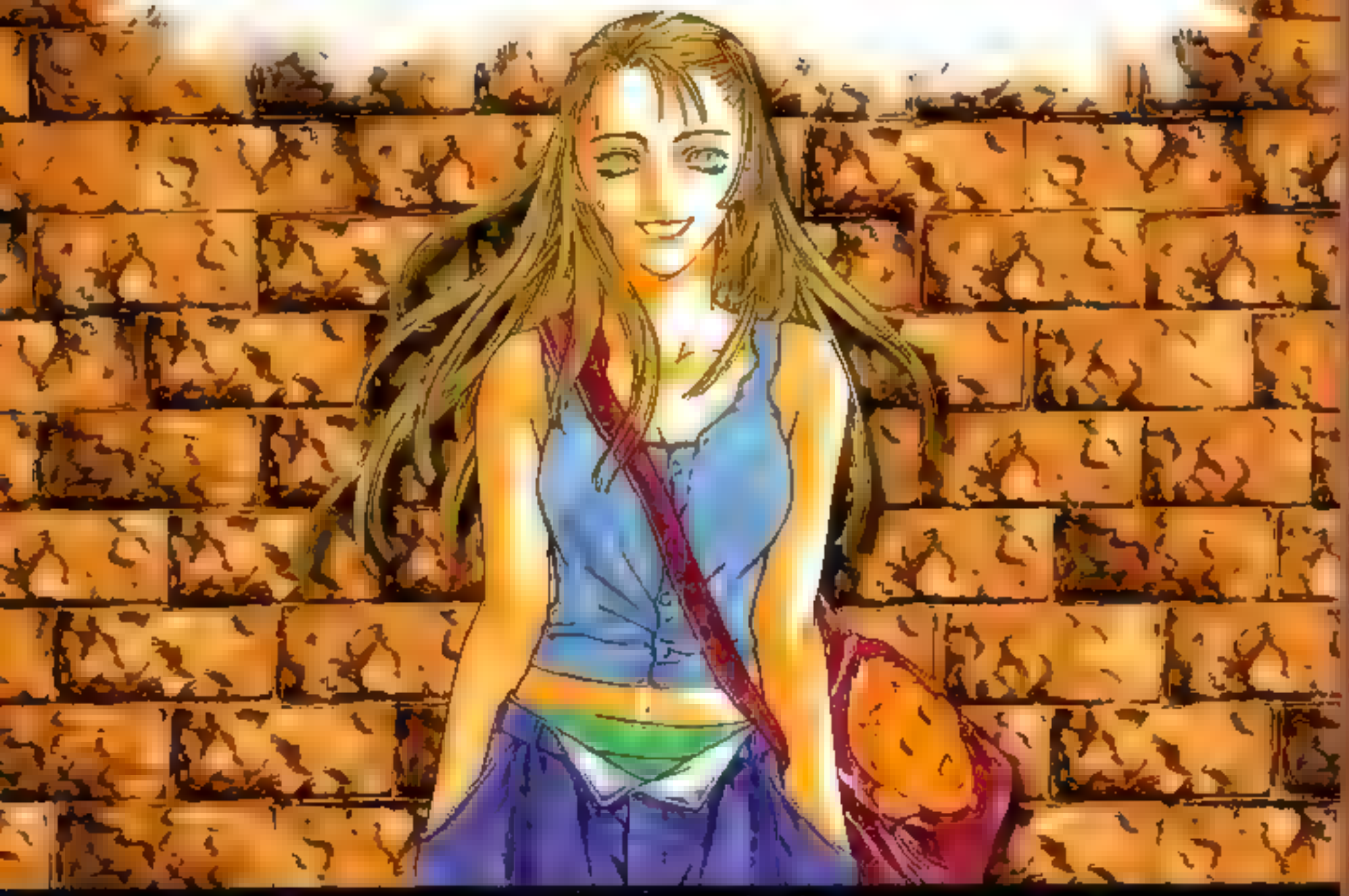
AAH!!

Graphic Novel/Horror
USA $9 99

ISLAND

When the evils that men do come back to haunt them...

Six years ago, more than 100 people were massacred at the Japanese Institute for Health. The only clue to the deaths was a human skull. Similar skulls are now appearing on Korea's Cheju Island, and the dying has begun anew. Korean authorities are at a loss as to what they should do, so a Japanese Interpol agent and a trio of spiritual fighters are called in to clean up the mess. Is the source of the skulls' power really a new retrovirus like the Interpol agent says, or are there more sinister forces at work?



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ISLAND

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KYUNG-IL YANG

4

ISLAND

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ARE YOU ALL TRAVELING TOGETHER?

はい (YES)*

YOU'RE FROM INTERPOL? DID YOU COME TO SHUT DOWN THE MAFIA?

いいえ! (NO!)

* TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE

鬼を 退けしに
來たんです.
(WE CAME
TO CATCH
GHOSTS.)

ANOTHER HOMELAND
PART 2

GHOSTS... YOU'RE PULLING MY LEG, RIGHT?

PERHAPS I BETTER GIVE YOUR PAPERS A SECOND LOOK.

UCHIDA KYOICHI... STUDENT, RIGHT?

YEAH, SURE.

AND KOJIMA TADASHI, THE INTERPOL AGENT...!

HAI.

AIKAWA ARASE... THAT WOULD BE YOU.

EH, AND YOU MUST BE--

STOP!

IT'S NOT LIKE JUST ANYONE CAN GO BY THAT NAME.

I'M THE LAST OF THE BUNCH, SO WHAT'S THERE TO ASK?!

.....

THAT WAS A BIT OVER THE TOP, MONK SEINAN...

IT'S YOUR FIRST TRIP SO IT MIGHT NOT SEEM ALL THAT DIFFERENT...

...BUT WE'RE IN KOREA NOW.

NONSENSE! THE LOWLY HIRED HELP MAY NOT UTTER MY NAME!

WELL, YES .. BUT STILL...

THAT'S THAT, I GUESS. THIS PLACE.

...DID YOU SAY IT WAS CHEJU ISLAND? IT'S QUITE SPLENDID.

IT'S DISGUSTING.

DON'T YOU AGREE, AIKAWA?

YOU FELT IT TOO, MONK SEINAN? I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED ANYTHING LIKE IT...

...THE ENTIRE ISLAND IS ENVELOPED IN AN AIR OF EVIL!

I'M STARTING TO THINK WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS JUST THE TIP OF ONE NASTY ICEBERG. EVEN WORSE...

...THERE'S SOMETHING EVEN BIGGER BEHIND IT, CONTROLLING THE ISLAND.

WE COULD WALK AWAY NOW IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE WHOLE PLACE ROTS TO HELL.

HOLD ON. LET'S NOT FORGET WHAT WE CAME HERE FOR.

WHAT HAPPENS ONCE WE'RE THROUGH IS NONE OF OUR CONCERN.

HEY? WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO KYOICHI?

DID THAT KID TAKE OFF AGAIN? MAN, WE ONLY JUST GOT HERE, AND ALREADY I'M LOSING CONTROL.

WONDER GAMELAND
COMPUTER ARCADE
FISH SOUP

WHO THE HELL *IS* THAT? HE'S ALREADY WON FORTY GAMES IN A ROW?!

SHIT, I THINK HE'S JAPANESE.

C'MON, SOMEONE, KICK HIS BUTT! AT THIS RATE, HE'S NEVER GONNA STOP WINNING, AND IT'S GONNA MAKE US ALL LOOK BAD.

타닥 타닥

IT'S HIS COUNTRY'S GAME, BUT THIS IS A NATIONAL DISGRACE!

PERFECT

SO BORING!
I GUESS I EXPECTED TOO MUCH. NORMALLY, KOREA HAS A LOT OF STRENGTH, EVEN IN ITS GAMING.

BUT THIS IS LIKE GOING UP AGAINST A PILE OF WET GARBAGE.

おい, 外に 誰か いらんかい?
(HEY, CAN'T ANY OF YOU LOSERS PLAY WORTH A DAMN?)

誰でも 來てみろ!
(ANYONE! CHALLENGE ME!)

DUDE! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

HA! I CAN SEE THAT YOU GUYS ARE GETTING YOUR ASSES WHIPPED...

BUT I DOUBT THIS FOREIGNER IS ANY MATCH FOR THE *HWOARANG* OF SOGWIP'O

JOHN

CRACK

WONDER GAMELAND

COMPUTER ARCADE

NOODLE

WIND DASH

PIVOT

DASH

KICK

SERVES HIM RIGHT! DIE, YOU PIG!

YOU'RE THE MAN, JOHN!

LUCKY! A COMPLETE VICTORY AGAIN!

YO! ENOUGH! MIND YOUR MANNERS.

YOU SAY THAT, BUT ONLY WHILE YOU KICK HIM ONCE MORE FOR GOOD MEASURE!

EH?

KICK

12

KEE...

SHIT!

EXCUSES.
EXCUSES.

WHO THE HELL JUST SAID THAT?!

SURELY NOT...?

HEY, WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?! .HUH, ASSHOLE?! TOO BAD FOR YOU, I TAKE JAPANESE LESSONS!

YEAH. HE READ MY MIND.

HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD HOW HE WAS ABLE TO SEE RIGHT THROUGH MY PATTERN.

FOOF

SNAP

AAAAAGH

MY HAND!

MY HAND!

YOU LITTLE SHIT! HOW DARE YOU LAY A HAND ON ME?

YOU WON'T BE PLAYING ANY GAMES FOR A WHILE!

NOW...

..YOU THERE! HWOARANG!

I'LL MAKE SURE THIS IS THE LAST GAME YOU'LL PLAY FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

LET'S TAKE THIS OUTSIDE!

PLEASE, FOLLOW ME. THIS WAY, EVERYONE!

MISS!

THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TOYOTA COMPANY ARE HERE.

SHOW THEM IN.

I'M PRESIDENT T'AEHAN WON'S ONLY DAUGHTER, MIHO WON.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING.

I SEE SO, YOU'RE THE ONE BEHIND THIS. WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF MAKING US COME STRAIGHT HERE WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A STOP AT OUR HOTEL?

AS IF KEEPING US WAITING AT THE AIRPORT WASN'T BAD ENOUGH!

I'VE NEVER BEEN TREATED SO SHABBILY IN MY LIFE.

YOUR FATHER OBVIOUSLY MISJUDGED YOUR ABILITY TO HANDLE THIS TASK.

AS FOR THIS COMPANY, I REALLY HOPE WHAT HAPPENED TODAY--

!

I'M SO SORRY, BUT I HOPE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND. I'M NOT SURE IF MY FATHER TOLD YOU, BUT I'M ALSO A TEACHER.

MY STUDENTS MUST TAKE PRIORITY -- EVEN IF IT MEANS NOT PERSONALLY MEETING YOU AT THE AIRPORT.

OH, MY! THAT'S SOME NECKTIE! A RED THEME WITH A ROSE MOTIF. WISE CHOICE. I LIKE IT. THE COLOR RED SYMBOLIZES PASSION.

HA-HA, REALLY?

HMMM, MAYBE YOU'RE NOT SO BAD AFTER ALL.

I HOPE YOU'LL ACCEPT MY APOLOGY.

HA-HA, OF COURSE!

EDUCATION FAR OUT-WEIGHS AN OLD MAN'S EGO.

SHE'S DEFINITELY THE DAUGHTER OF A PUT-[illegible] OLD STIFFS FOR ONE HELL OF A RIDE.

SHE'S GOT THEM ALL EATING OUT OF THE PALM OF HER HAND!

I AM ALWAYS AMAZED BY WHAT AN EXTRAORDINARY LADY SHE IS

AH, I FORGOT. I HAVE LINED UP THE BEST CHEFS ON THE ISLAND TO COOK FOR YOU.

I GUARANTEE YOU HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED THE DELICACIES OUR ISLAND [illegible]

COME ON, MAN!

WHAT ARE YOU SO PISSED ABOUT? IT'S JUST A STUPID GAME!

LOOK, IT WASN'T COOL OF ME TO TEASE YOU AFTER, I'M SORRY.

BUT DOING THAT TO MY FRIEND'S WRIST WAS WAY TOO MUCH!

HONESTLY, IF I KNEW YOU COULD HEAR WHAT I WAS THINKING...HOW COULD I KNOW YOU HAD PSYCHIC POWERS?

SLIDE

YOU FIGHT IN REAL LIFE JUST LIKE YOU DO IN THE GAME...!
YOUR ATTACKS ARE POWERFUL, BUT THEY'RE WAY TOO DIRECT.
IT'S EASY TO SEE THEM COMING, AND IT'S BARELY AN EFFORT TO AVOID THEM...

...BEFORE COUNTERING!

ADMIT IT! I'M A BETTER PLAYER THAN YOU ARE

I DON'T HAVE TO USE MAGIC TRICKS TO WIN!!

FINE THEN, HOTSHOT.

LET'S TRY SOMETHING ELSE!

ISLAND

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ANOTHER HOMELAND
PART 3

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

ARE YOU SOME KIND OF DEMON?

IT'S GETTING DARK AROUND HERE.

FORTUNA... FORTUNA...

RTU...

T...

UTR... UTRO... AUTROF...

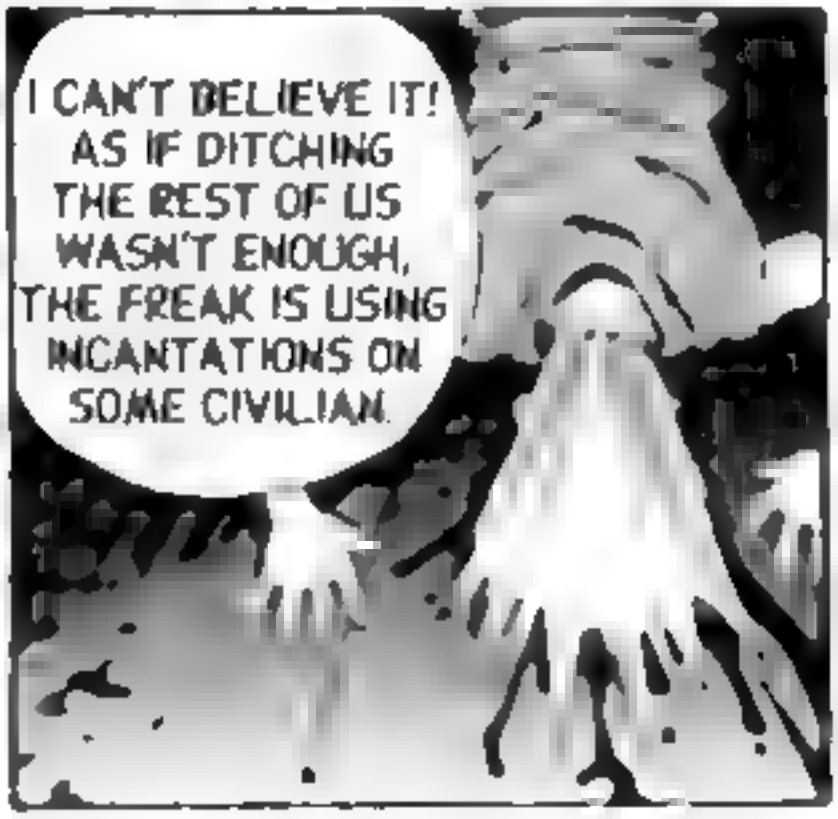
2!

DON'T LOOK SO SURPRISED! IT'S CALLED *BLACK MAGIC!*

IF YOU'RE GOING TO CRY SO EASY, I MIGHT ACTUALLY FEEL BAD.

BF
OF

.....


I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! AS IF DITCHING THE REST OF US WASN'T ENOUGH, THE FREAK IS USING INCANTATIONS ON SOME CIVILIAN.

YOU'RE GONNA BE SO DEAD WHEN YOU WAKE UP, ASSHOLE!

우사사

KOJIMA, DID YOU FIND KYOICHI?

E EH? THERE RE MORE...

AH, MONK SEINAN... YEAH, I FOUND THE BRAT. WE SHOULD'VE CHECKED THE ARCADE IN THE FIRST PLACE

!!

WHAT THE--? WHERE'D THAT BIG DUDE COME FROM?

THEY ALL SEEM TO POSSESS SOME KIND OF MAGICAL POWERS.

!!

SORRY, KID! I APOLOGIZE ON BEHALF OF THIS IDIOT

JUST THINK OF WHAT HAPPENED TODAY AS SOME KIND OF BAD DREAM. TRUST ME, IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD

SAYONARA.

I'M SO LOST.

ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE, I CAN'T TELL BY HIS ENGLISH WHERE HE WAS FROM

BUT...

WHY ARE THOSE PEOPLE HERE?

YOU SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE VERY WELL, MISS WON! YOUR ACCENT IS VERY GOOD.

USUALLY WE'RE SUBJECTED TO THE AWFUL TONES THEY TEACH PEOPLE AT THOSE LAST-MINUTE CRASH-COURSE PROGRAMS.

.....

MISS WON, HAVE YOU BEEN TO JAPAN BEFORE?

YES, I SPENT MY SECOND YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL AT THE TOKYO ART INSTITUTE.

I BECAME SO ABSORBED IN JAPANESE ART THAT I WAS ABLE TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE EXPERIENCE STUDYING ABROAD.

.....!!

OH- HOW REMARKABLE! ISN'T TOKYO ART INSTITUTE WHERE ALL THE GENIUSES GATHER?

MISS! THERE'S A CALL FROM THE PRESIDENT.

PLEASE... BE NICE

SURPRISED!

CHUCKLE...

YES! AND I WASN'T JUST A CASUAL STUDENT, I WAS INVITED WITH A FULL SCHOLARSHIP.

EXCUSE ME A MOMENT.

SHIT... IS HE CALLING TO CHECK UP ON ME?

HE STILL DOESN'T TRUST ME, DOES HE?

HEH... I HAVE NO IDEA WHO'S ENTERTAINING WHO!

HA-HA... NAKADA-SAN BE PATIENT. SHE'S STILL YOUNG.

THE FACT THAT SHE'S YOUNG IS THE PROBLEM. TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I DON'T LIKE HER IS IT JUST ME, OR DOES SHE ACT LIKE WE'RE HER INFERIORS?

REALLY? I DON'T FEEL THAT WAY AT ALL.

OH, DEAR... YOU'VE FALLEN FOR HER HARD.

WAH!
LET ME GO, DAMMIT!

YEAH, RIGHT! DO I LOOK THAT STUPID TO YOU? HAVING TO COMB THE TOWN FOR YOU ONCE WAS ENOUGH!!

BUT WHAT'S WITH THE CUFFS? IF SOMEONE SEES, THEY'RE GOING TO GET THE WRONG IDEA

HEY, NO ONE ASKED YOU TO SPLIT. AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU STARTED TOSSING INCANTATIONS AROUND LIKE IT WAS NO BIG DEAL.

SHIT...
SHIT!

IT'S RESERVED UNDER KOJIMA TADASHI.

RESERVATIO

SEIKO

HEH-HEH

JUST BE PATIENT, KYOICHI... HE'LL LET YOU GO AFTER WE UNPACK!!

I DON'T CARE.

WHAT'S WRONG, MONK SEINAN?

I DON'T KNOW, PROBABLY NOTHING...

IT'S PROBABLY JUST A FEELING...

ALRIGHT, YOU GUYS, HERE ARE YOUR KEYS!

IS THAT IT?

OKAY, I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

OLD MAN! I NEED YOU TO GET ME A CAR.

IF YOU CAN, MAKE IT A CHARTER BUS...

CH-CHARTER BUS?

YES, A *CHARTER BUS!*

DAD SAID THEY MUST BE AS COMFORTABLE AS POSSIBLE, AND FOR THAT, I NEED THE BIGGEST CAR YOU CAN FIND.

EVEN SO, A BUS *IS* A BIT...

I'LL BE IN THE LOBBY IN 10 MINUTES. I HAVE FAITH IN YOU

.....

띠

WHAT'S THIS?

AH, YOU'RE HERE!

I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND.

I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS, BUT I ENVY HIM.

HEH-HEH... IT CAN'T BE TRUE!

IT'S PROBABLY JUST AN ADMIRER.

HA-HA. YOU WISH, YOU OLD COOT!

IF YOU DON'T MIND, WON'T YOU OPEN IT HERE?

WE'RE REALLY CURIOUS.

AL RIGHT...

I'LL OPEN IT. BUT JUST FOR A SECOND!

I'VE ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF ALL MY BUSINESS WITH THE BOY BACK IN SEOUL

THIS IS SO CHEESY

A GIFT CARD?

WHAT DOES IT SAY, MISS MIHO?

HEY, BEHAVE YOUR-SELF

BOO

BOOM

IT WAS RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES ALL ALONG!!

THOSE DAMN GHOSTS ARE HERE!

MY GOD!!

WHERE ARE THEY, MONK SEINAN?!

IF WE DON'T HURRY, THEY'LL CORRUPT THE WHOLE ISLAND!

SHOOO

AAAARGH!!

KAAARGH!

HELP!

E-EVERYONE, GET OUT NOW!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE DOOR?!

IT'S LOCKED!

EFEFEFE

CRAP! HOW WERE WE TO KNOW THEY'D ATTACK AGAIN SO FAST?!

RIGHT ABOVE OUR HEADS, TOO!

WE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME!

I CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING. THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD!

SHIT! SHIT! SHIT!!

WHY COULDN'T THERE HAVE BEEN AN ELEVATOR?!

ISLAND

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NICE TO MEET YOU, TEACHER. BUT I'M AFRAID I WON'T BE ATTENDING SCHOOL EVER AGAIN.

SHIT! THE ENTIRE HOUSE IS A HOST!

ANOTHER HOMELAND

PART 4

IF YOU WANT TO LIVE...

...KEEP YOUR HANDS IN THIS POSITION!

PREPARE THE BARRIER!!

DAMMIT... WE'RE TOO LATE! IT'S A SLAUGHTER!!

IF YOU WANT TO LIVE...

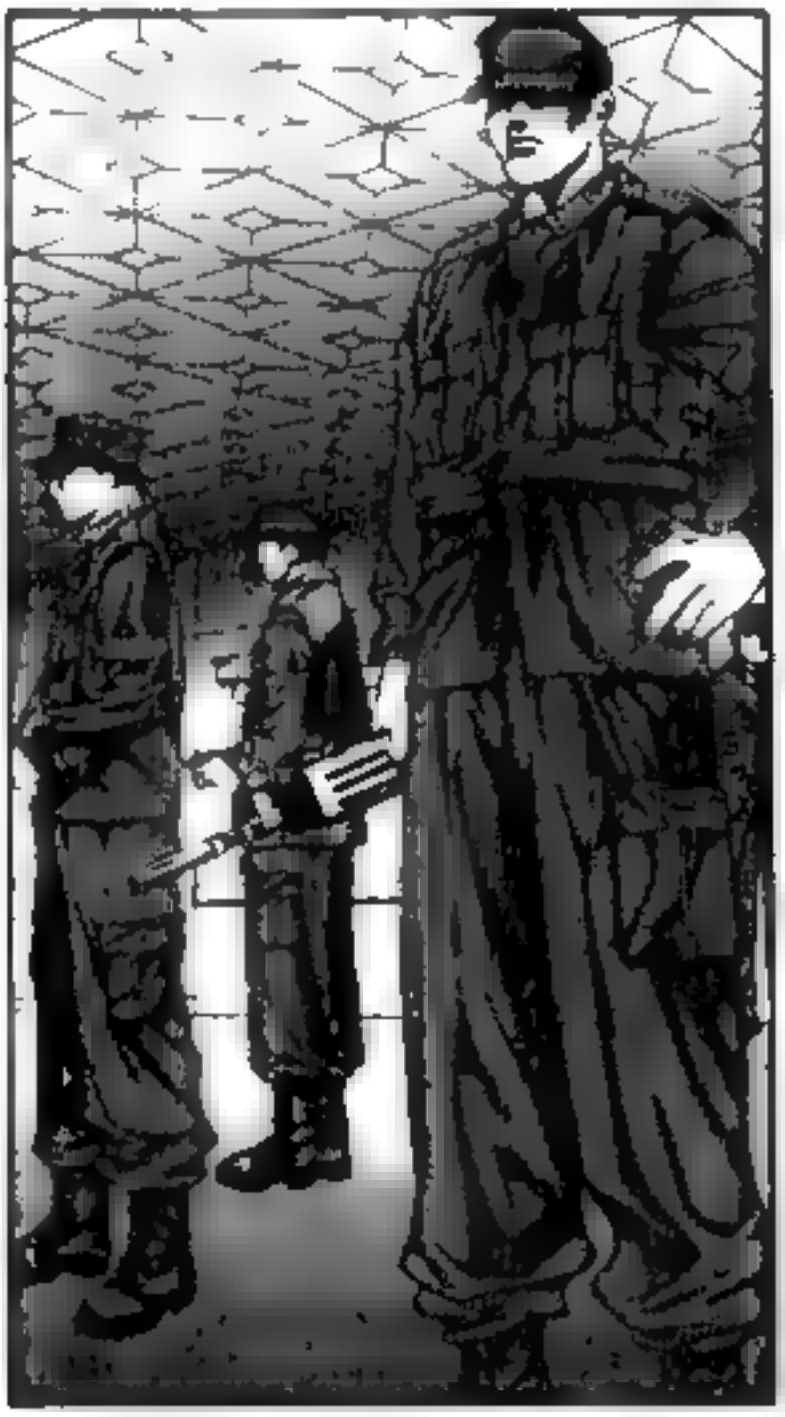
...REMEMBER THIS HAND GESTURE!

WHO IS SHE?!

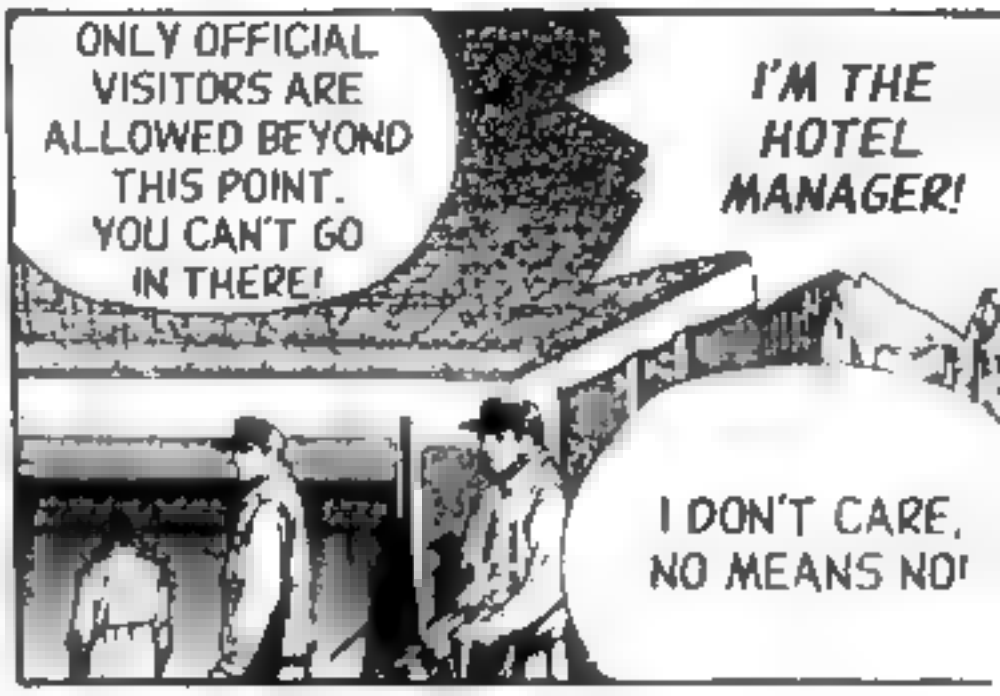
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KOJIMA?!

I CAN SENSE IT. AT ONE O'CLOCK. *THE ENTITY IS THERE!*

E-4



MISS!
MISS?!


ONLY OFFICIAL VISITORS ARE ALLOWED BEYOND THIS POINT. YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!
I'M THE HOTEL MANAGER!
I DON'T CARE, NO MEANS NO!

OLD MAN!

AH... JOHN...

SHIT... IT JUST MELTED!

TAKE IT AWAY!

HEY, OVER HERE! LOOKS LIKE WE GOT ANOTHER BODY.

GET A FORENSIC TEAM IN HERE NOW!

AND DID YOU SAY YOU'RE KOJIMA?

I CAN ONLY SPEAK A LITTLE ENGLISH, SO LET'S TAKE IT SLOW.

SO SHE'S THE WOMAN?

AH...YES.

SHE'S THE ONLY SURVIVOR THAT I KNOW OF. SHE SAW IT ALL.

I THINK SHE WENT INTO SHOCK.

WELL, FINE. THE ORDER CAME DOWN FROM THE TOP THAT I SHOULD TURN THIS INVESTIGATION OVER TO YOU AND THE BOYS AT INTERPOL...

SO...I'M DETECTIVE *MINSOP CHONG*, THE HEAD OF VIOLENT CRIMES SECTION.

I JUST HAVE ONE THING I NEED TO ASK YOU...

IN THE REPORT, IT APPEARS I HAVE TO WRITE THAT THE ONLY SUSPECT FOR THIS IS A *SKULL*. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE ME?

HUH? THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION. LOOK, I NEED YOUR FULL COOPERATION HERE

TO GET THAT, I'M WILLING TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING...

...BUT MAYBE WE SHOULD GO SOMEWHERE ELSE TO TALK

AH!!

AH! WHAT'S THAT?!

?

AH!

HEY, YOU LITTLE PUNK! STOP RIGHT THERE!

SORRY, MR. POLICEMAN!

GIVE IT UP, KID!

NOT EVEN THE PRESIDENT CAN ENTER HERE!

ARE YOU OKAY, JOHN?

OUCH OUCH!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. THE POLICE HAVE TAKEN OVER THE ENTIRE HOTEL.

WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED IN THAT ROOM?

DON'T WORRY. I KNOW MIHO IS SAFE.

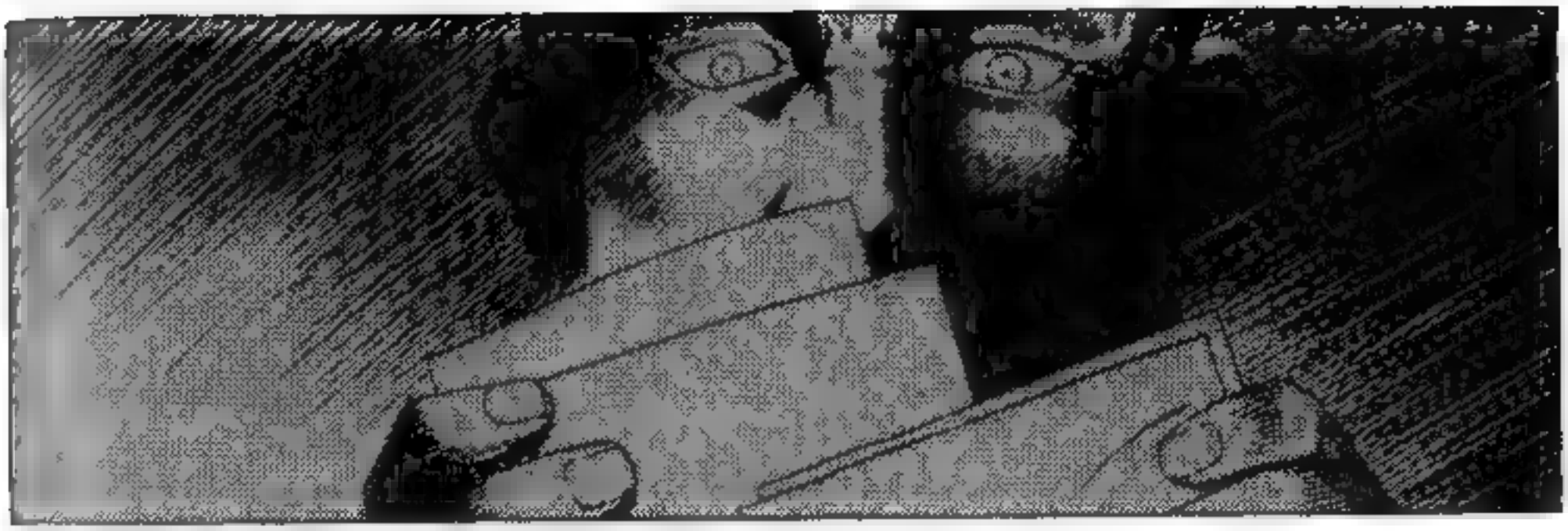
SHE'S STRONG.

AND SHE'S TOO STUBBORN TO GET HURT EASILY.

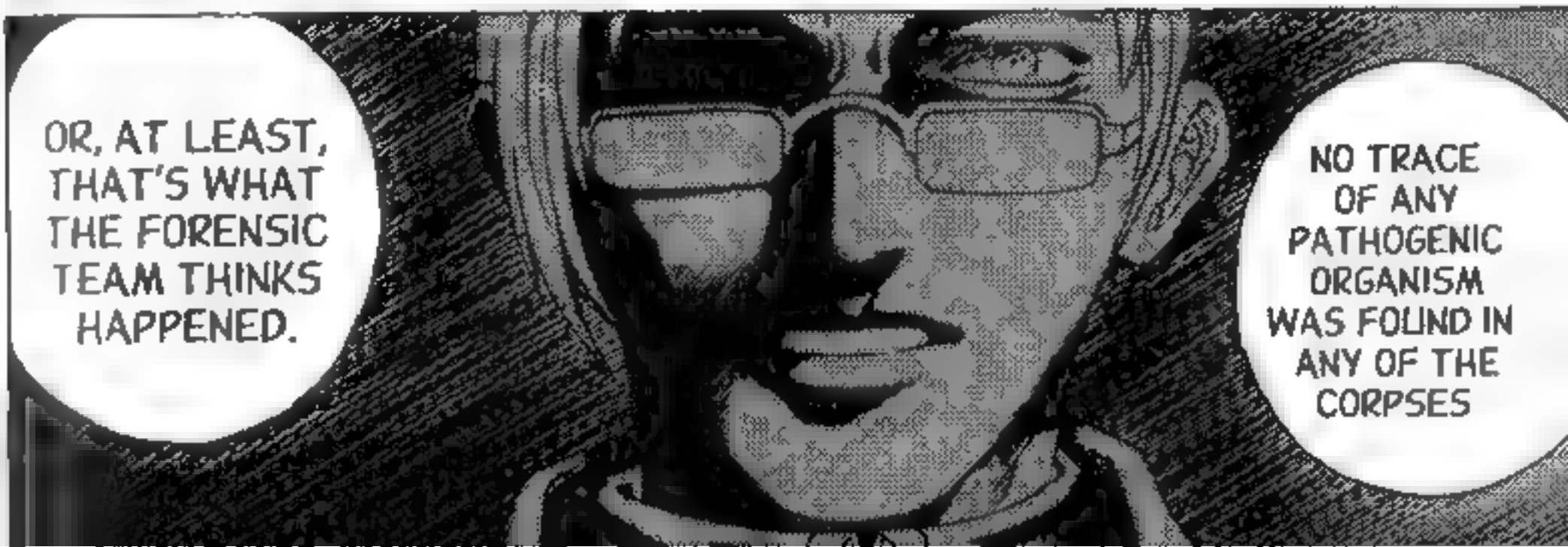
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO THE BATHROOM! I SPLIT MY LIP.

HERE, CHECK THESE OUT FIRST.



ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO... ON JULY 27, AROUND 6 PM, SOMETHING NASTY WENT DOWN AT MANJANG CAVE.
THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS TOTAL BODY DECOMPOSITION INSTIGATED BY AN UNKNOWN VIRUS.


OR, AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT THE FORENSIC TEAM THINKS HAPPENED.
NO TRACE OF ANY PATHOGENIC ORGANISM WAS FOUND IN ANY OF THE CORPSES

WAIT! DID YOU SAY MANJANG CAVE? DON'T MESS WITH ME! THAT'S MY JURISDICTION!

THERE WAS A LARGE-SCALE MILITARY MARCH AROUND THERE A LITTLE WHILE AGO, RIGHT?

...?!

THEN?

EXACTLY.

THEY CONCEALED THE HOT ZONE BEFORE THE POLICE EVEN FOUND OUT.

WOW... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY! HOW CAN THEY COVER IT UP LIKE THAT...?

WELL, THAT'S SORT OF GETTING AWAY FROM THE BIG PICTURE.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT HERE IS THAT NO BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE WAS FOUND TO EXPLAIN THE CONDITION OF THE VICTIMS.

WE'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE, BUT THIS INCIDENT IS BY FAR THE ***WORST***.

BEFORE...

KYOICHI, TAKE OUT CASE NUMBER TWO!

NOW, SHALL WE TAKE THE STORY EVEN FARTHER BACK THIS TIME?

I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY, DETECTIVE CHONG.

EVERYTHING I SAY FROM NOW ON IS A JAPANESE MILITARY TOP SECRET. IN ESSENCE, YOU COULD SAY THAT IT'S A MATTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY

ONE THAT AFFECTS OUR ABILITY TO DEFEND OUR ENTIRE COUNTRY.

WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO HEAR IS BEST FORGOTTEN THE MOMENT IT HITS YOUR EARS.

IF THIS WERE TO INFECT THE KOREAN PUBLIC THE WAY GOSSIP CAN...

WE'D BE FORCED TO ASSUME THAT YOU LEAKED IT, AND OUR SELF-DEFENSE FORCE WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PUNISH YOU ACCORDINGLY

SO PLEASE, BE CAREFUL NOT TO FIND YOURSELF IN AN UNEXPECTED, UNWANTED SITUATION

HEH... I'M AMAZED! FOREIGNERS THREATENING PHYSICAL FORCE AGAINST MY COUNTRY?

DON'T WORRY! THOUGH I MAY NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH...

...EVEN I KNOW WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF PARK CHUNG HEE*...

* REVOLUTIONARY AND CONTROVERSIAL FORMER PRESIDENT OF SOUTH KOREA. ASSASSINATED IN 1979

EXACTLY SIX YEARS AGO TODAY, IN JULY 1989, WE HAD AN INCIDENT IN JAPAN THAT WAS SIMILAR TO MANJANG CAVE.

IT HAPPENED AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH, JAPAN'S LEADING MEDICAL CENTER.

TWENTY-TWO MEDICAL OFFICIALS, THIRTEEN CIVILIANS, AND SIXTY-EIGHT TOKYO CITY SWAT TEAM PERSONNEL...

THE DEATH TOLL EXCEEDED ONE HUNDRED, ALL BODIES IN A STATE OF TOTAL DECOMPOSITION.

THIS IS THE ORIGIN, THE BEGINNING OF THE SERIES OF EVENTS THAT LED US TO TONIGHT.

...!!

IF IT'S THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH... THAT'S...?

YOU GUYS DID AN AMAZING JOB COVERING THAT UP. THERE'S NO WAY THE MEDIA WOULD HAVE IGNORED SUCH CARNAGE...

THE FUNDAMENTAL CAUSE OF DEATH IS STILL UNKNOWN.

NO PLAUSIBLE CLUE WAS FOUND ON ANY OF THE CORPSES.

BUT ONE THING IS FOR SURE...

...NO VIRUS ON EARTH CAN OPERATE OUTSIDE THE LAWS OF CAUSE AND EFFECT!

CAN YOU PUT THAT IN LAYMAN'S TERMS?

NO MATTER HOW MUCH BACTERIA OR RADIATION TRIES TO HIDE IN THE SHADOWS, IT LEAVES SOME KIND OF TRAIL.

IF THIS IS BACTERIA, AND IF IT CAN DISINTEGRATE THE HUMAN BODY, I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE HOW CONTAGIOUS IT COULD POSSIBLY BECOME.

THANKFULLY, SO FAR, THE VIRUS HAS HAD NO SIDE EFFECTS FOLLOWING EACH CASE OF OUTBREAK.

UNFORTUNATELY, IT CAN MAKE TRYING TO TRACK THE CAUSE CONFUSING AT BEST.

THE QUESTION BECOMES

...IF THESE CRAFTY LITTLE GERMS CAN APPEAR AND DISAPPEAR AT WILL...

DO THEY EVEN EXIST AT ALL?

THEN, WHAT?

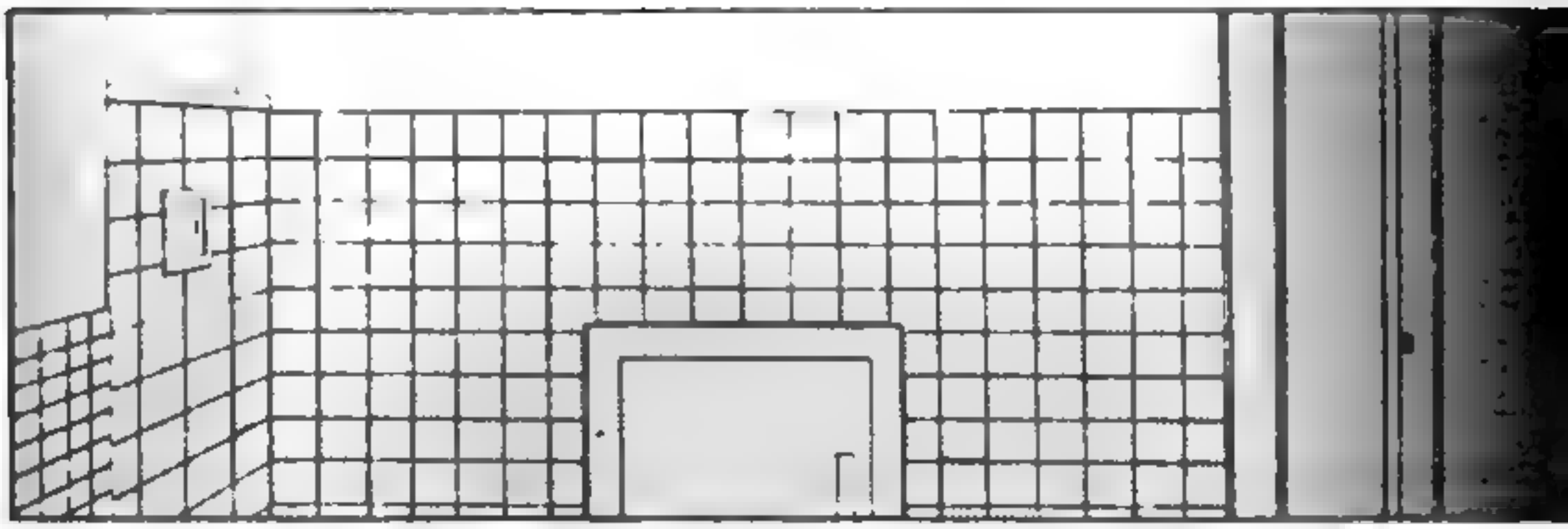
YES.

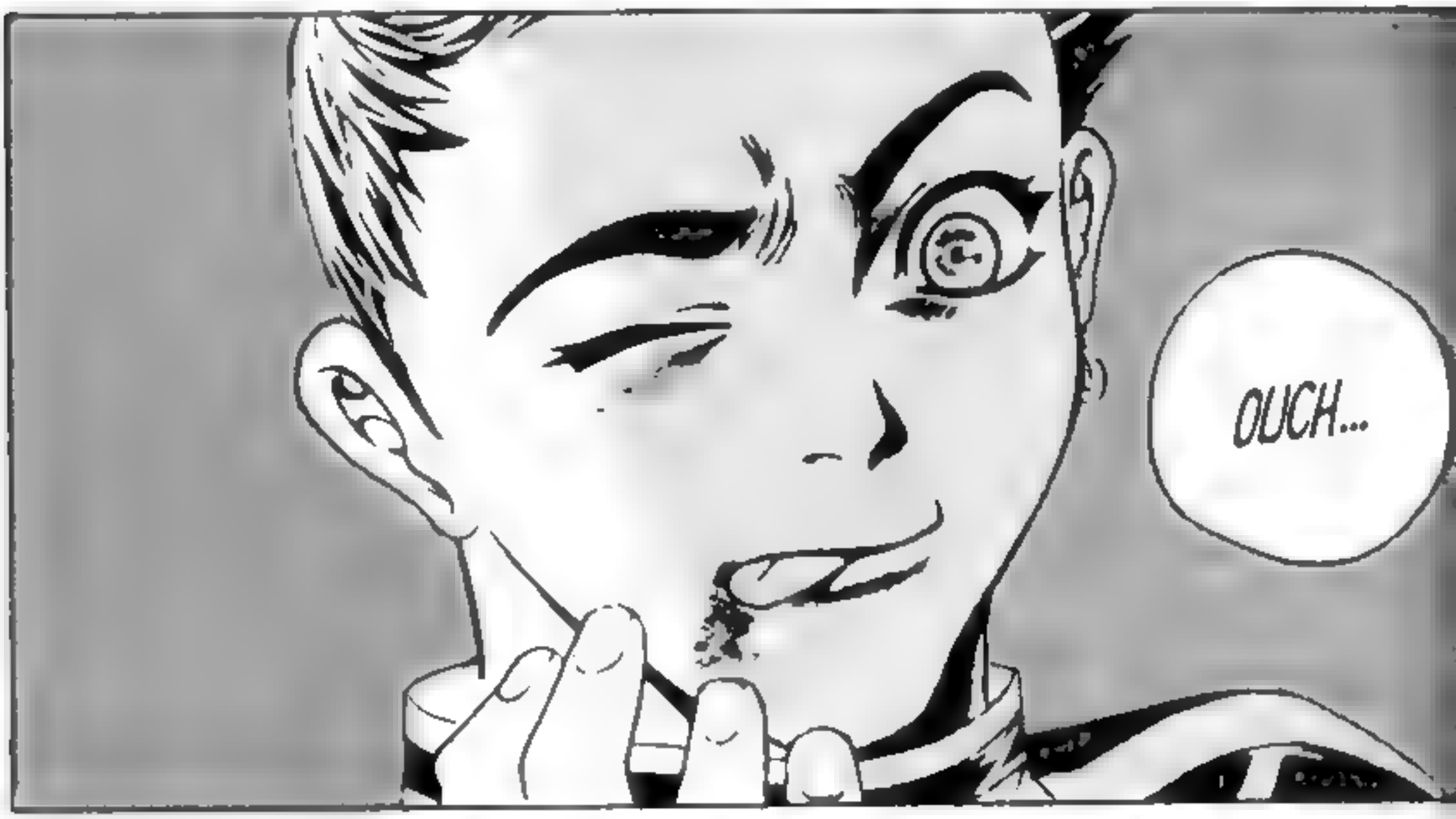
YOU ASKED ME A QUESTION EARLIER, DETECTIVE CHONG, AND HERE COMES YOUR ANSWER.

THIS IS, IN FACT, YOUR CRIMINAL. THERE HAS BEEN ONE AT EVERY CRIME SCENE.

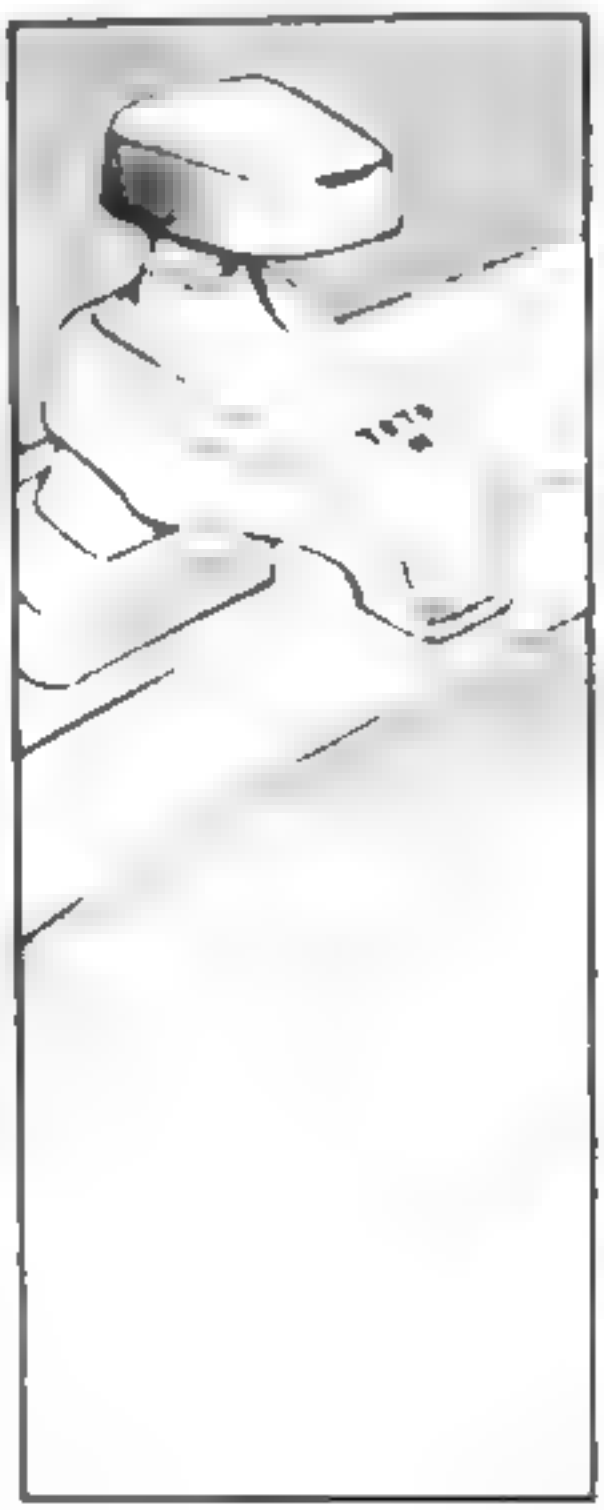
BUT MORE IMPOR-TANTLY...

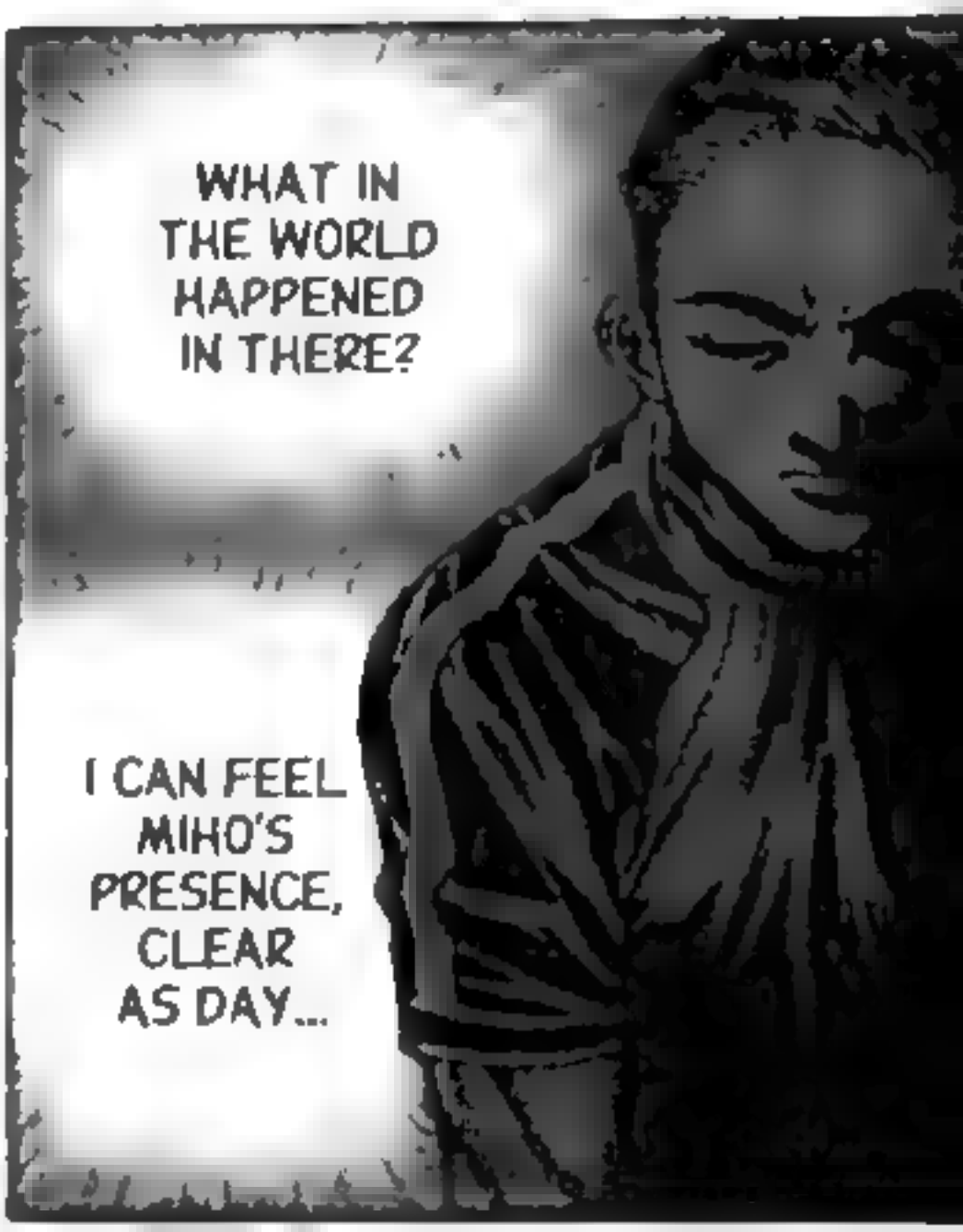
..RIGHT NOW ABOUT TWO-HUNDRED OF THEM HAVE TRAVERSED THE OCEANS AND COME *HERE*, TO CHEJU ISLAND.




OUCH...

HE DIDN'T EVEN PUSH ME THAT HARD. DON'T KNOW WHY IT HURTS SO MUCH...
TSK... MY TOLERANCE FOR PAIN MUST BE GETTING WEAK.




WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED IN THERE?
I CAN FEEL MIHO'S PRESENCE, CLEAR AS DAY...

...BUT THAT'S AS FAR AS IT GOES. I CAN'T SENSE ANY MORE THAN THAT, AS IF SOMEONE HAS SET UP A *BARRIER.*

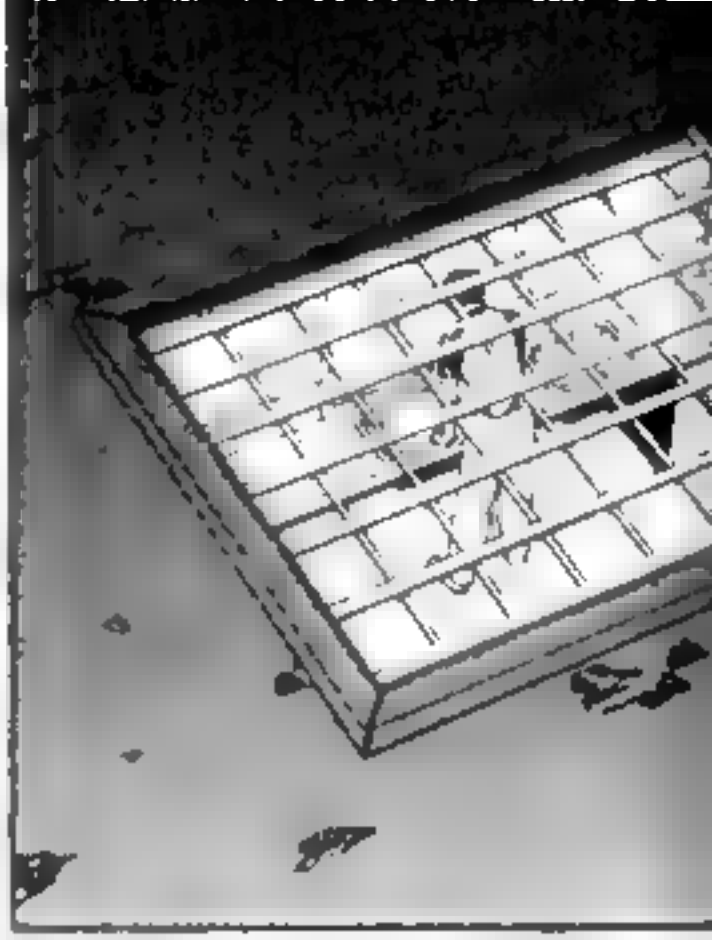
IT MEANS THERE COULD BE OTHER *SHAMANS,* OTHERS WITH MAGICAL ABILITIES, IN THAT ROOM.

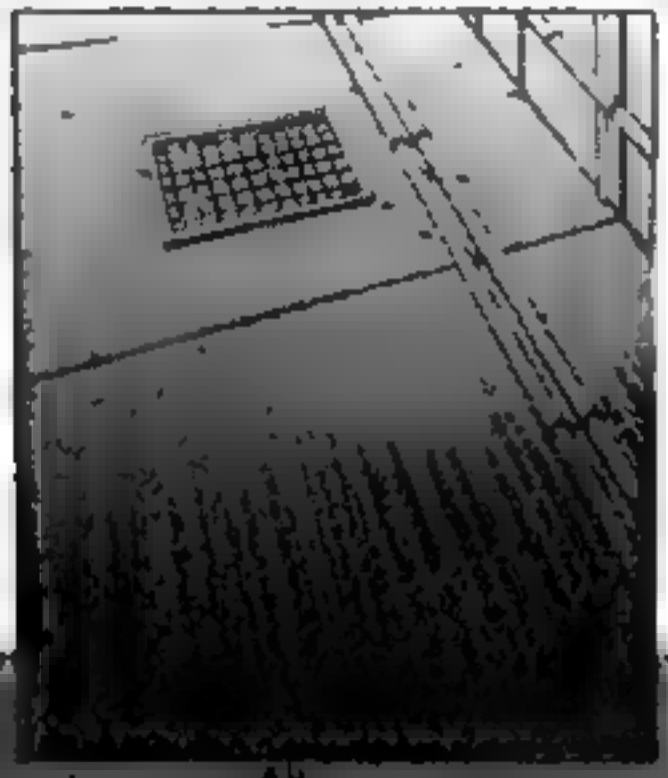
AND IF THERE ARE OTHERS WITH SPIRITUAL POWERS AROUND HERE, IT'S LIKELY THAT SOMETHING SUPERNATURAL IS GOING DOWN...

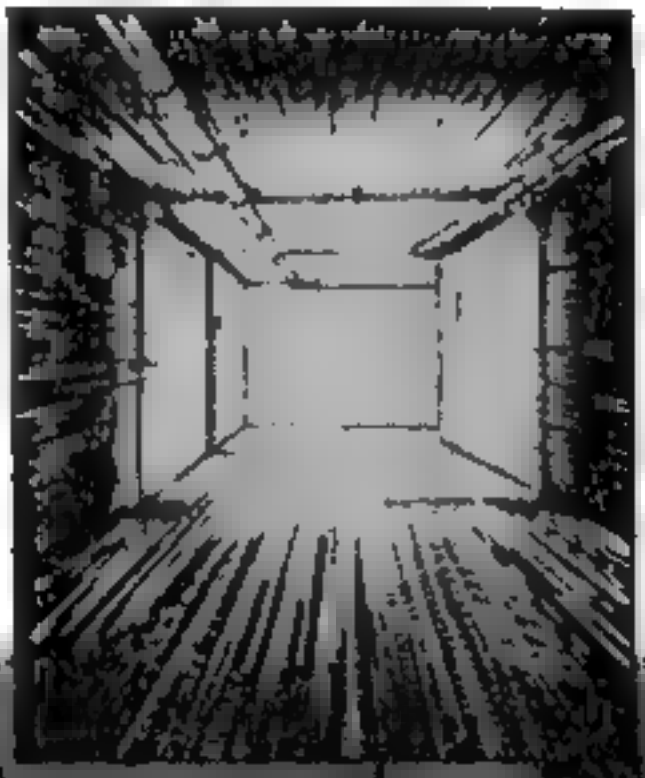
I'M DYING OF CURIOSITY.

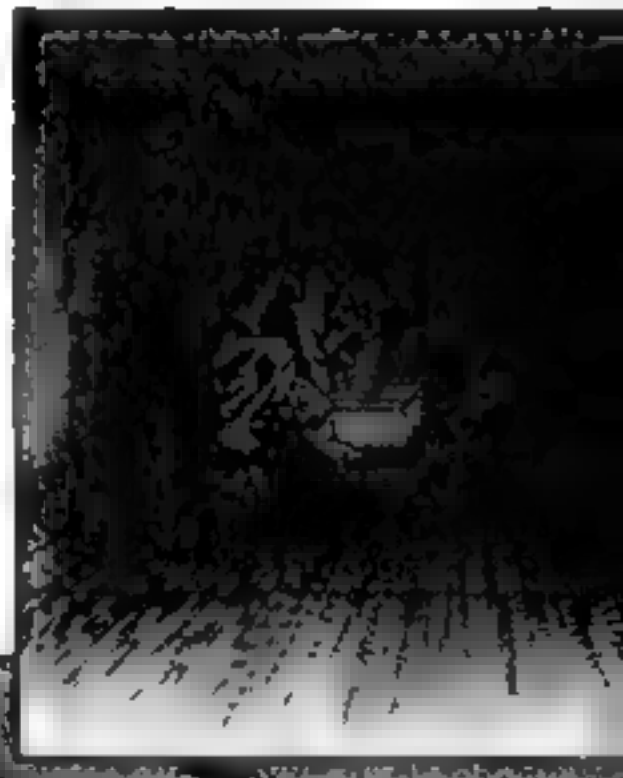
SIGH-

WHAT ON EARTH COULD IT BE?









DID YOU SAY ABOUT... *TWO HUNDRED?*

196 TO BE EXACT.

WE'VE BEEN KEEPING THE VICTIMS' REMAINS UNDER LOCK AND KEY...

...BUT I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THE HEADS DIDN'T GET UP AND WALK HERE BY THEMSELVES.

THOSE SKULLS MAY EMIT DEADLY GASES, BUT IT TAKES A LIVING BEING TO MOVE THEM.

I'D HAZARD OUR SECURITY SAFEGUARDS AREN'T AS SECURE OR SAFE AS WE'D LIKE.

.....

THERE'S ONE THING THAT DOESN'T ADD UP, THEN.

IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE, THEN THERE *IS* ANOTHER CRIMINAL BEHIND THIS.

...BUT WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE THE MOTIVE FOR A MURDER THIS HIDEOUS?

AND WHERE DO THESE SKULLS DRAW THEIR EVIL POWER FROM?

I'M EMBARRASSED TO ADMIT IT, BUT I HAVE NO ANSWER FOR YOUR FIRST QUESTION.

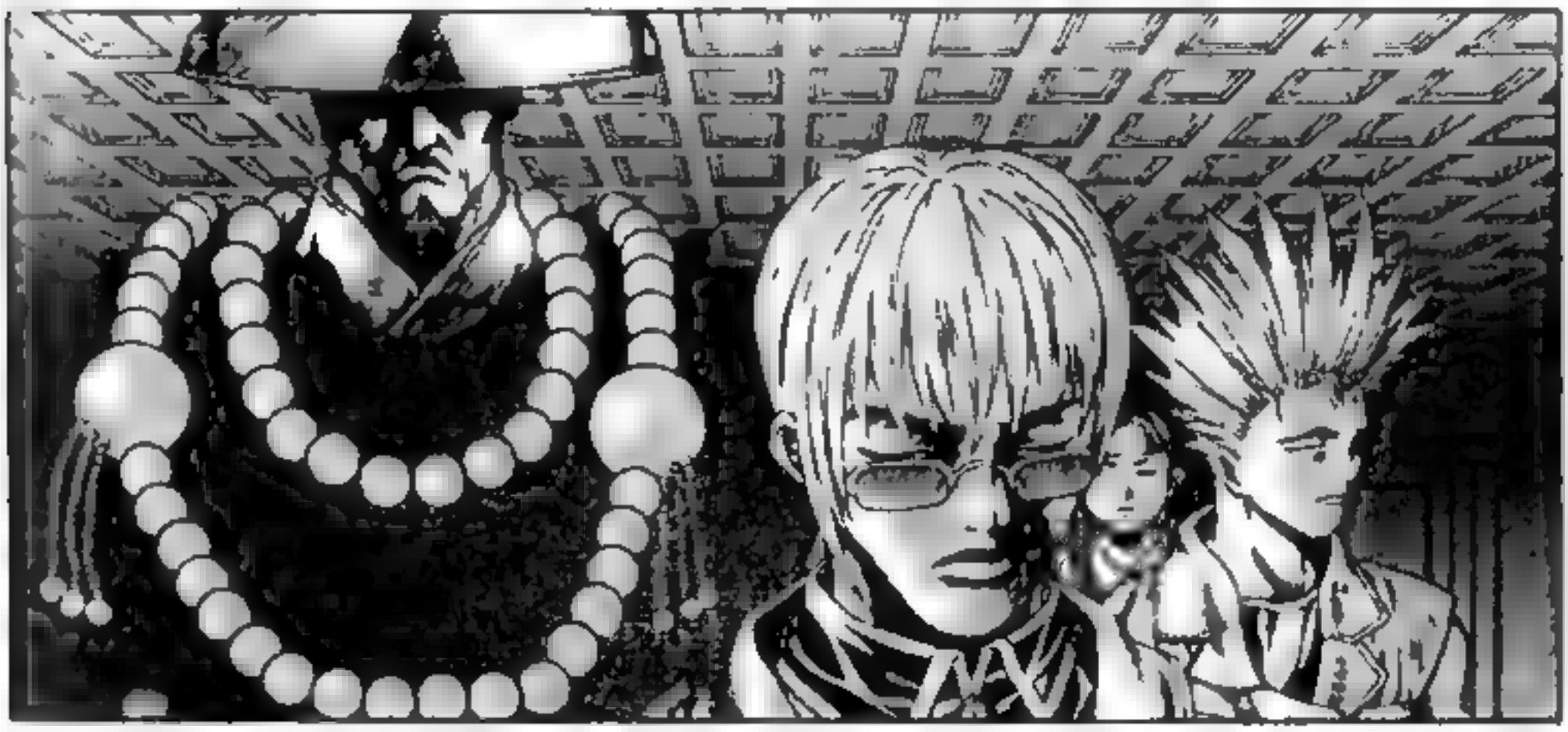
WE HAVEN'T FOUND A SINGLE PLAUSIBLE CLUE.

THE IDENTITY OF THE SKELETAL REMAINS, HOWEVER...

...IS A WHOLE OTHER MATTER.

THEY'RE THE REMAINS OF THE UNFORTUNATE JAPANESE CITIZENS WHOSE LIVES WERE CUT SHORT...

...IN A MASSIVE AIR RAID ON TOKYO DURING WORLD WAR II



SO THAT'S WHY... EVEN AFTER DEATH THEY'RE STILL....

I'M SORRY...

LISTEN, LET'S NOT ASSUME ANY MORE THAN WE HAVE TO.

WE DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY TO STAND AROUND DISCUSSING SCIENCE FICTION.

OUR PRIMARY GOAL IS TO FIND THE PERP, AND TO DO IT *NOW!*

WE NEED TO FIND OUT WHO STOLE THOSE REMAINS...

BECAUSE IF WE DON'T, HE'LL MAKE CHEJU ISLAND A HELL BY THE SEA AND KILL EVERYONE ON IT.

I UNDERSTAND WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

I'VE BEEN WITH THE VIOLENT CRIMES DIVISION FOR TWENTY YEARS.

IF THERE'S A CLUE OUT THERE, I'LL FIND IT. AND WE'LL STOP THIS.

HEH-HEH... I EXPECTED AS MUCH.

CAN I JOIN YOU IN YOUR GAME OF HIDE-AND-SEEK?

WELL, LOOK WHO DECIDED TO JOIN US... *OUR WITNESS!*

I WANT TO HELP YOU CATCH THE ASSHOLE WHO DELIVERED THAT SKULL!

UGH... HEADACHE...

I SAW THE BASTARD COME IN. I COULD POINT HIM OUT!

HEY! IS SOMEONE OUT THERE?!

WAIT A SECOND...

YOU *SAW* THE BODY THIEF?

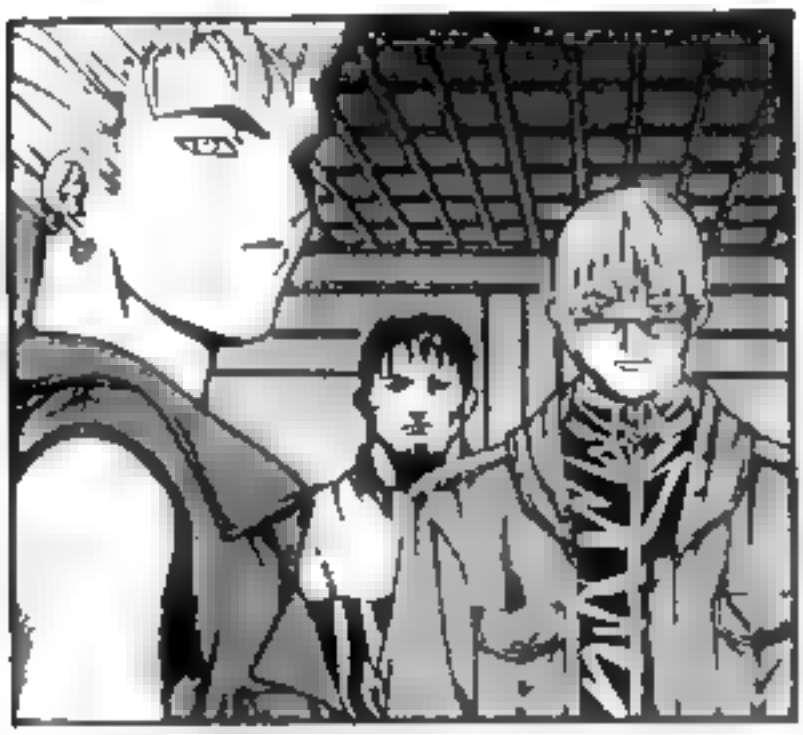
I SAW HIM FOR A SECOND, AT LEAST.

IT'S A LONGSHOT, BUT I'M SURE IT WAS HIM.

HE WAS ABOUT 5' 7" OR 8", SLIGHTLY OVERWEIGHT FOR HIS SIZE.

I COULDN'T SEE HIS FACE BECAUSE HE WORE HIS CAP DOWN OVER HIS EYES...

I THINK HE HAD A MUSTACHE.



WAIT A MINUTE, I *KNEW* I'D SEEN YOU BEFORE...

YOU'RE THE DAUGHTER OF TAEHAN GROUP'S PRESIDENT!

TAEHAN GROUP?!

OF COURSE! I RECOGNIZE YOU! YOU'RE THE ONLY DAUGHTER, MIHO WON! AGE 24.

YOU GRADUATED FROM THREE OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR SCHOOLS, AND YOU CAME HERE FROM SEOUL THREE MONTHS AGO.

HMPH. YOU'RE ONE POWERFUL GIRL. SOME THINK YOU HAVE AS MUCH INFLUENCE AS OUR PRESIDENT'S OWN CHILDREN.

?!

THE PAPERS SAID YOU CAME TO CHEJU ISLAND FOR A HOLIDAY. SO WHY IS IT MURDER FOLLOWS YOU WHEREVER YOU GO?

THERE WAS THAT FIRE THAT DESTROYED THE FAMILY OF YOUR STUDENT, SURYON YI' THEN THE VIOLENT DEATH OF THOSE BODYGUARDS AT FOX CREEK IN POPHWAN-RI' AND THE GAS EXPLOSION AT THAT HOTEL... THE LIST IS ENDLESS...

I'VE BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT YOU. YOU'VE GOT A REAL DARK CLOUD HOVERING OVER YOU.

THEN AGAIN, MAYBE THE POLICE HAVEN'T BEEN LOOKING IN THE RIGHT PLACE. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A PERFECT CRIME, IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT.

YOUR SUSPICIONS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE A BACKSEAT, DETECTIVE.

RIGHT NOW, THIS GIRL IS ALL WE'VE GOT.

I HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK YOU!

WHERE DID YOU LEARN THE *MUDRA OF KSITIGARBHA BODHISATTVA*?

WHAT?

HAND GESTURE OF THE BUDDHA KSITIGARBHA BODHISATTVA, WHO SOUGHT TO ENLIGHTEN SOULS TRAPPED IN HELL.

THAT THING YOU DID WITH YOUR HANDS A WHILE AGO.

I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU, TOO...

OH, YOU MEAN THIS. WELL, A RATHER UNPLEASANT PERSON TAUGHT IT TO ME.

SUPPOSEDLY HE'S SOME KIND OF MONK. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D ACTUALLY NEED IT...

IMPOSSIBLE! THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS ESOTERIC BUDDHISM IN KOREA!

EVEN IF THERE IS, IT MUST BE SOME PERVERSION!

JEEZ! WHAT'S GOT YOUR PANTIES IN A WAD? SETTLE DOWN, SEINAN.

...

OKAY, FORGET ABOUT THAT.. YOU SAID THAT YOU'D HELP US CATCH THIS SCUMBAG, RIGHT? CARE TO TELL ME WHY YOU'RE SO EAGER TO GET INVOLVED?

BECAUSE OF THAT SHITHEAD, ALL OF MY FATHER'S CUSTOMERS DIED. I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT HIS FORTUNE...

...BUT IF I DON'T MAKE THINGS RIGHT, I'LL FEEL INDEBTED TO THE OLD BASTARD FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

IT'S A FAMILY... PROBLEM?

OKAY, THEN. LET'S PLAY HIDE AND SEEK TOGETHER.

LOOK! DETECTIVE KOJIMA!

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT ANY PAST CRIMES, CHONG.

I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT THIS IS. WE NEED HER HELP, AND THAT'S THAT.

TRUST ME. I'M A GOOD JUDGE OF CHARACTER

LET'S GIVE IT OUR BEST SHOT, MISS MIHO WON!

THEN IS THIS PEP RALLY FINALLY OVER?

IT'S PATHETIC, AND A TOTAL WASTE OF TIME.

I EXPECT IT OF KOJIMA. BUT I THOUGHT THE REST OF YOU WOULD CATCH ON.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, KYOICH!?

HANG ON A MINUTE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

??

WE ALREADY KNEW EVERYTHING. KYO...

REALLY? THEN WHY HAVEN'T *WE* DONE ANYTHING?

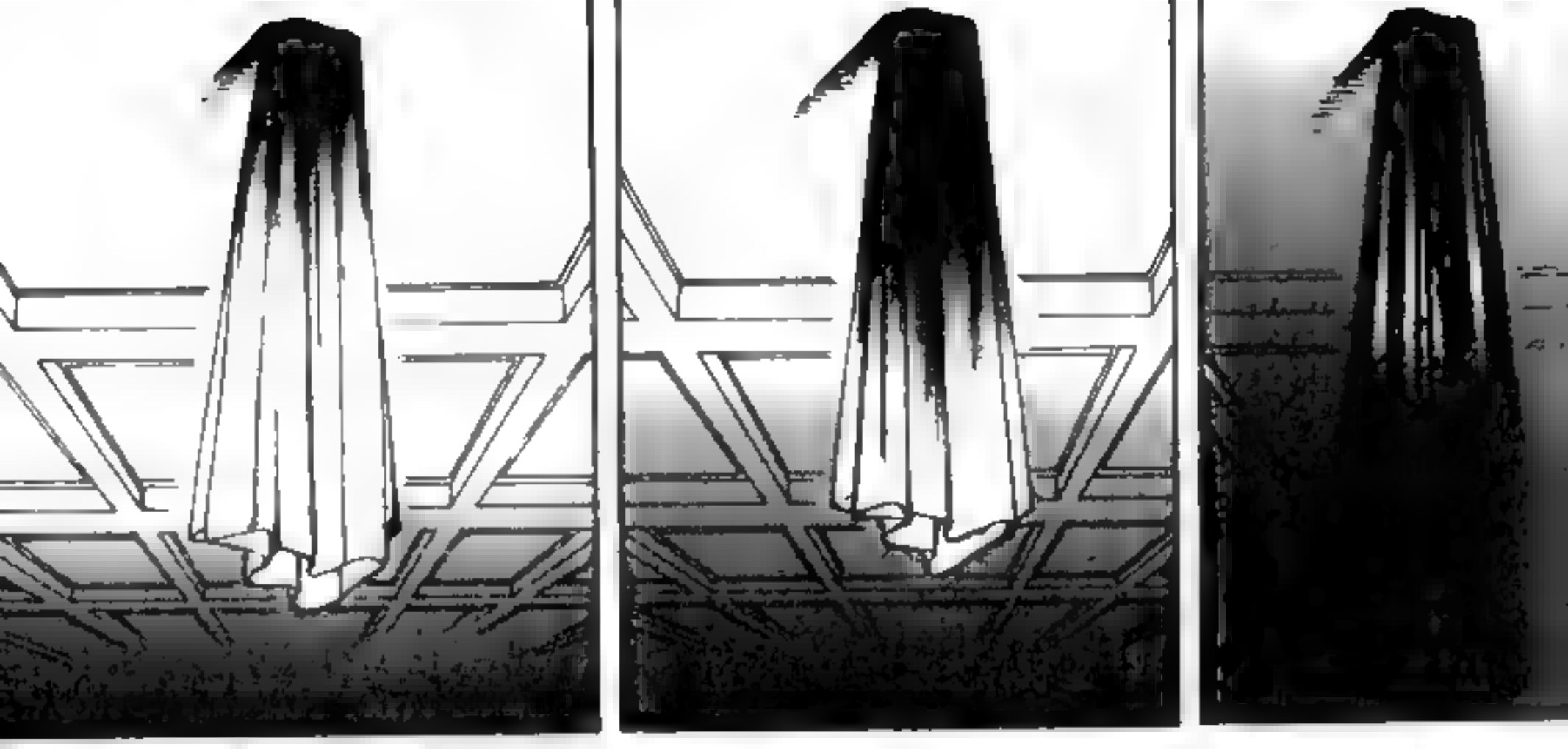
WE WANTED TO WAIT AND SEE. WE HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEY'RE ON THE RUN.

YOU'RE CRUEL! BOTH OF YOU...

WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING?

ATUTABU QUE GIN!!

OH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THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE CEILING?
IT'S HIM!

ISLAND

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ANOTHER HOMELAND

PART 5

WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING?! QUIT STARING AND DO SOMETHING!

ÔN AMOGA VAJRA SOWAKA!!

唵 阿慕伽 縛日 娑婆訶 !!

46

SHIT, HE ESCAPED!!

THE THREE OF YOU, HURRY UP AND FOLLOW HIM!!

DETECTIVE CHONG, HE'S USING THE AIR DUCT! GET TO THE OTHER SIDE BEFORE HE DOES!

NOW! GO!!!

GOOD--
MY WOUNDS
ARE NOW
COMPLETELY
HEALED!

HA

HA

CHUCKLE...

COOL.
I LOOK LIKE
A STREET
FIGHTER!

NOW,
WHERE DO
I START
LOOKING
FOR MIHO?

?

EIJI

FIGHT

HUH?

UGH...
UGH...

UH...MISTER, ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU'RE BLEEDING A LOT.

DO YOU NEED HELP?

WHAT'S IN THAT BOX?

TH-THERE'S A TREMENDOUS AURA OF EVIL AROUND IT!

HE'S THIS WAY! COME QUICKLY!

DON'T LOSE HIM AGAIN!

JAPANESE...? ARE THEY FOLLOWING THAT GUY?

MAYBE IT'S THE SAME PEOPLE FROM THE ARCADE.

ARGH!

YOU NEED TO TAKE IT EASY. THAT ARM'S NOT GOOD FOR MUCH RIGHT NOW.

GIVE IT TO ME. I'LL HELP YOU.

NO! DON'T TOUCH IT!

.....

WELL, THEN...

I'LL ASK YOU ONE MORE TIME, MISTER.

WHAT'S IN THAT BOX? I SENSE SOMETHING WICKED.

DO YOU HAVE SPIRITUAL ABILITY?

DUH... WHO'S THIS?

AREN'T YOU THAT DEFT LITTLE HWOARANG?

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ANOTHER HOMELAND
PART 6

EH

EH

MY NAME ISN'T THAT COMPLICATED, PAL. IT'S JOHN.
AND... THE JAPANESE I HEARD, IT WAS YOU PEOPLE.

YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE. THE GUY YOU'VE BEEN CHASING HAS ALREADY JUMPED OUT THE WINDOW.

HE WAS BANGED UP PRETTY BAD, BUT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN TO REASON.

SHIT... WE'RE ONE STEP BEHIND...

BUT THE GAME'S NOT OVER YET!

HELLO?

KOJIMA, IT'S ME, KYOICHI!

THE BASTARD ALREADY ESCAPED! DON'T COME HERE. HE WAS HEADED NORTHEAST.

THE SKULL? AH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.

HE KNEW HE WAS IN A JAM, SO HE DITCHED IT HERE.

I'LL RECOVER IT AND DESTROY IT. IMMEDIATELY!

ER ER ER

OKAY! BUT MAKE SURE IT'S COMPLETELY OBLITERATED!

WE WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY.

DETECTIVE CHONG, STAY HERE AND KEEP LOOKING.

HE MIGHT HAVE A PARTNER.

!!

GOTCHA! NO PROBLEM.

IF HE'S HEADING NORTHEAST, HE'S MAKING FOR THE ENTRANCE.

WHEN WE CAME IN, I NOTICED THERE WAS A SEVERE SLOPE

TAP TAP TAP

GRAB

HEY!
STOP!

IT'S THE
10TH
FLOOR!

EXC

UH? UH?! KIM, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR TRUCK?!

DIDN'T YOU PUT THE SIDE BRAKES ON?

OOH...
THAT STILL
HURT!

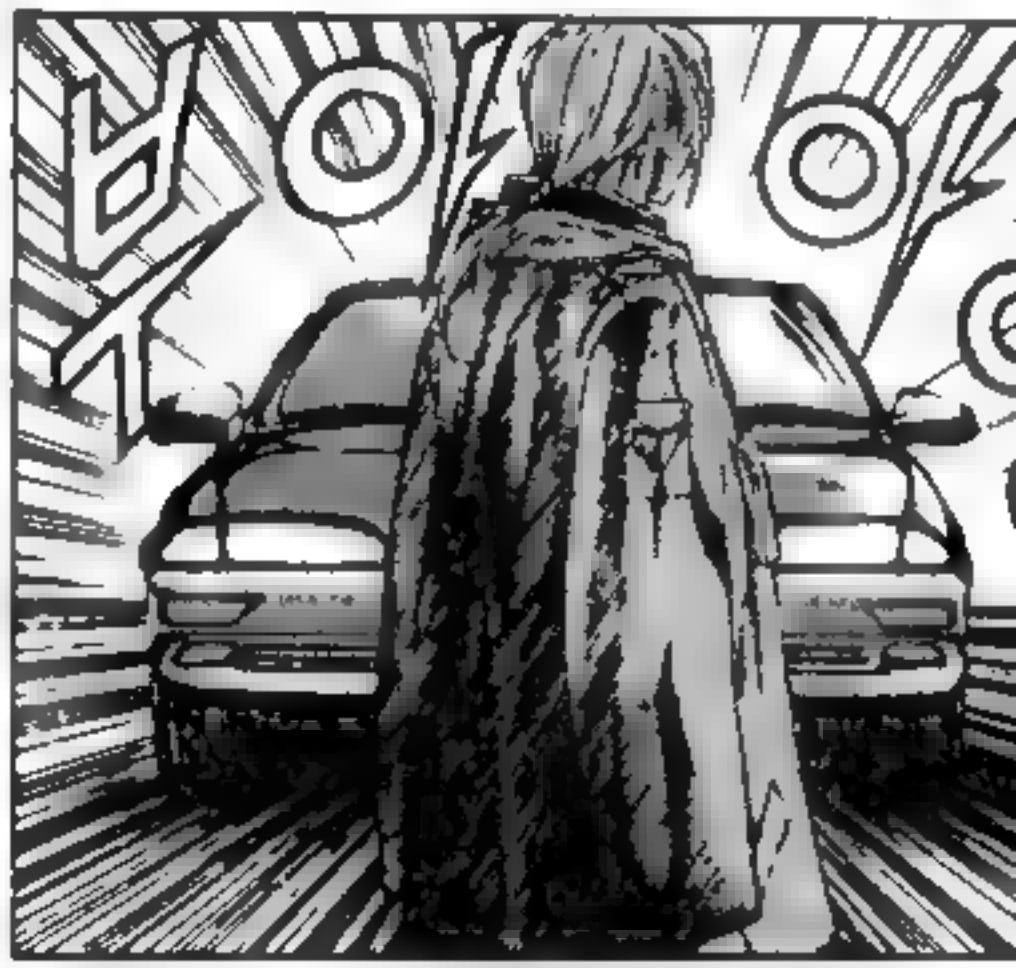
MOO/

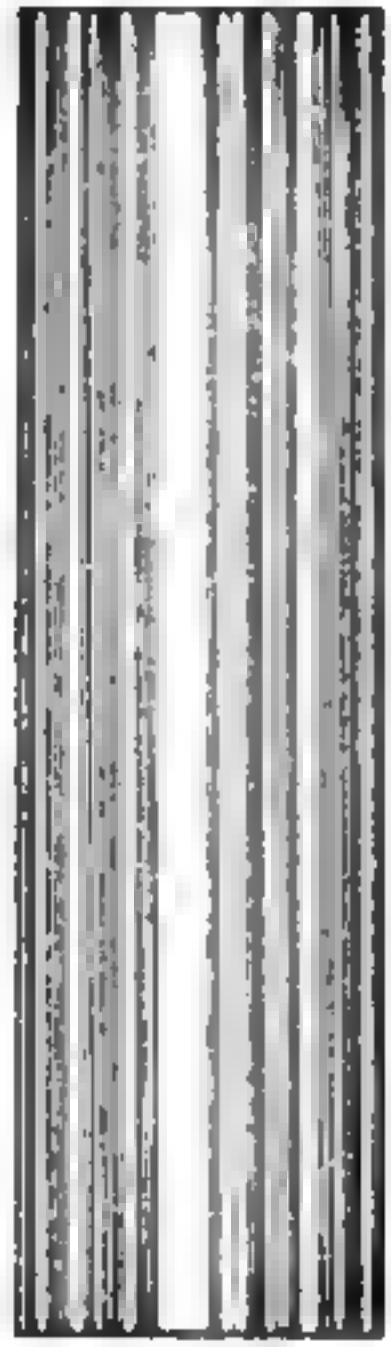
WH-
WHAT
THE—?!

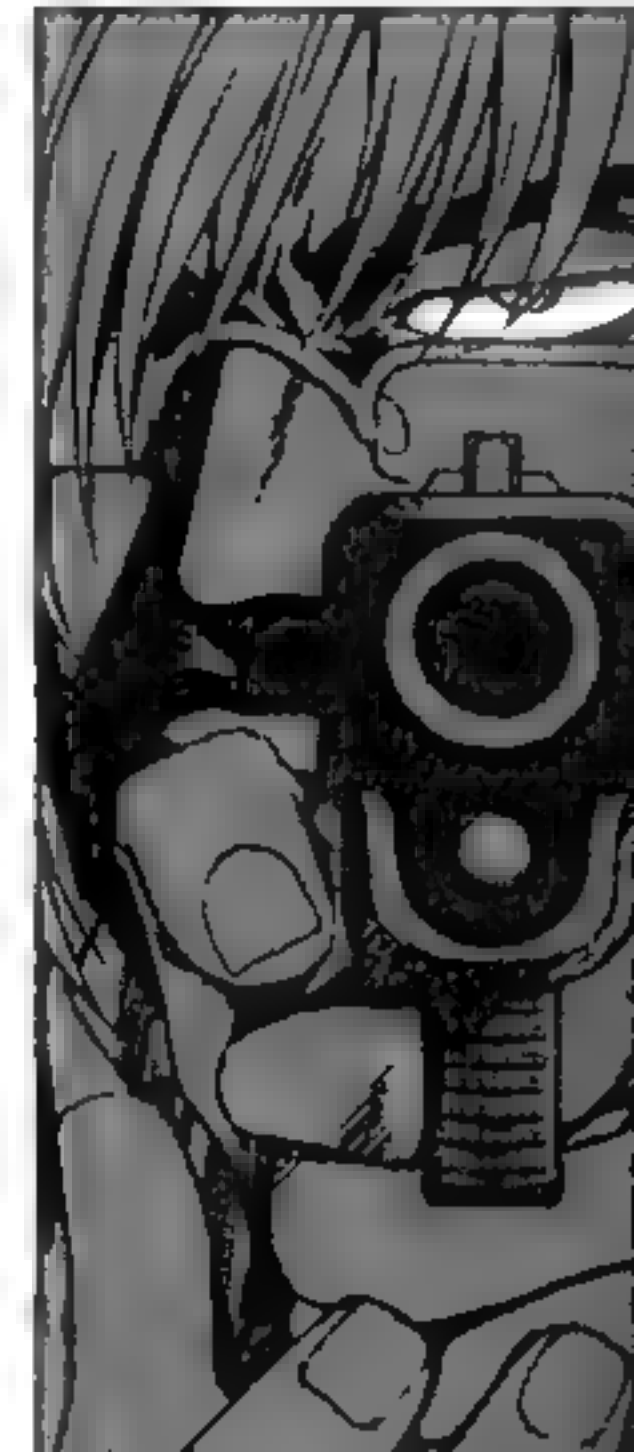
IT'S YOU!

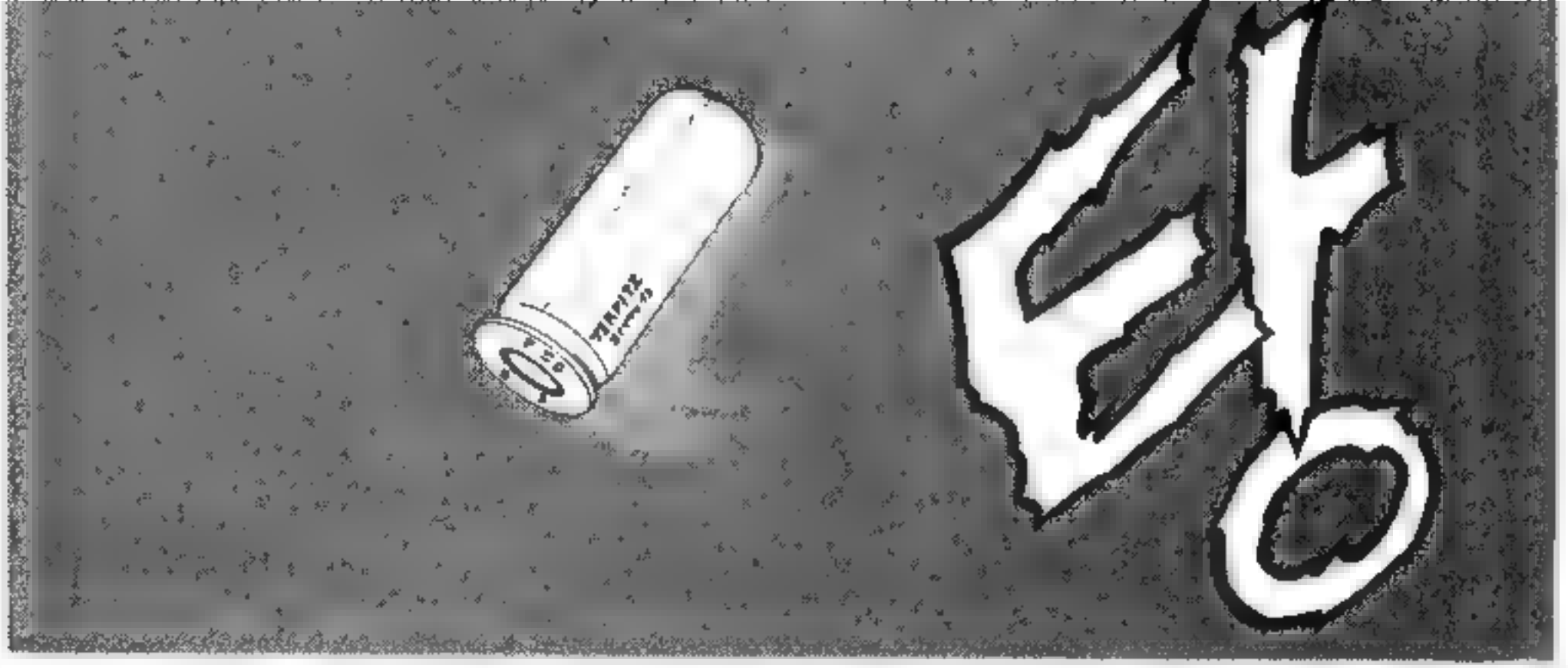
WHY'D HE STOP? PERHAPS...

HE'S GOING TO *REVERSE!*








EP 3

OOP!

WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU, ASSHOLE?
DO YOU WANT TO HAVE A REMATCH AT THE ARCADE OR SOMETHING?

AH! NO, I'M NOT THAT PETTY.
IT'S JUST THAT I'VE MADE A PROMISE.

YOU CAN'T HAVE THE BOX!

I WAS ASKED TO WATCH IT, AND I KEEP MY WORD.

!!

HA-HA... ARE YOU TOTALLY NUTS?

DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT'S IN IT?

WELL, LET'S SEE... I'D SAY IT'S A PRETTY SAFE BET IT'S NOT A BIRTHDAY CAKE...

...BUT EVEN IF THERE'S A BOMB INSIDE I CAN'T LET YOU TAKE IT.

YOU PRICK!

WAIT, KYOICHI.

YOUNG MAN, SINCE I CAN'T SPEAK A WORD OF ENGLISH, WE'LL HAVE TO SPEAK IN KOREAN.

IN THAT BOX, THERE'S AN OBJECT OF SPIRITUAL POWER THAT CAN WIPE OUT HUNDREDS OF LIVES.

THE PERSON WHO PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF THE BOX HAS ALREADY USED IT TODAY TO CAUSE A MASSACRE IN THIS HOTEL.

WE HAVE COME HERE TO RECOVER THAT BOX AND ELIMINATE ITS CONTENTS!

PLEASE, HAND IT OVER TO US...

YOU NEED TO KNOCK ME DOWN AND TAKE IT FROM MY HANDS!

HUH... OKAY, IT'S YOURS...

ON ONE CONDITION.

ISLAND

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SO THAT'S IT. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS KNOCK ME DOWN!

ANOTHER HOMELAND
PART 7

I'M SORRY. I DON'T MEAN TO BE STUBBORN.

IT'S ONLY THAT I MADE A PROMISE. I TOLD HIM I'D KEEP THE BOX SAFE.

NO MATTER HOW EVIL THIS BOX IS, I CAN'T BREAK THAT PROMISE.

IN ALL HONESTY, THERE ARE A THOUSAND WAYS TO TELL A LIE, BUT ONLY ONE WAY TO TELL THE TRUTH.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE FOREIGNERS THAT I CAN'T MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND, BUT DON'T YOU SEE MY POSITION AT ALL?

SHIT... I KNEW SOMETHING ABOUT YOU MADE ME SICK. YOU'RE A HOLY ROLLER!

FINE! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO KICK YOUR ASS!

WAIT, KYOICH!!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THIS PLACE?

OH! I HOPE MISS MIHO IS SAFE.

MIHO!

MISS!

AH, OLD MAN.

A-ARE YOU ALRIGHT? WHAT'S GOING ON?

I'M SORRY. I CAN'T ANSWER ANYTHING RIGHT NOW.

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SHUT THIS PLACE DOWN FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS. THE POLICE ARE GOING TO NEED TO INVESTIGATE.

UH...

THE JAPANESE BUYERS YOU WERE WITH?

DIDN'T YOU SEE ALL THE BODIES THEY WHEELED OUT OF HERE?

EVERYONE DIED EXCEPT FOR ME.

PLEASE, DON'T TELL MY FATHER...

NOT YET!

JUST GO HOME. SIT TIGHT. YOU'LL BE MUCH MORE HELPFUL THERE.

I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I MIGHT EVEN NEED THAT GUY'S HELP.

THAT GUY?

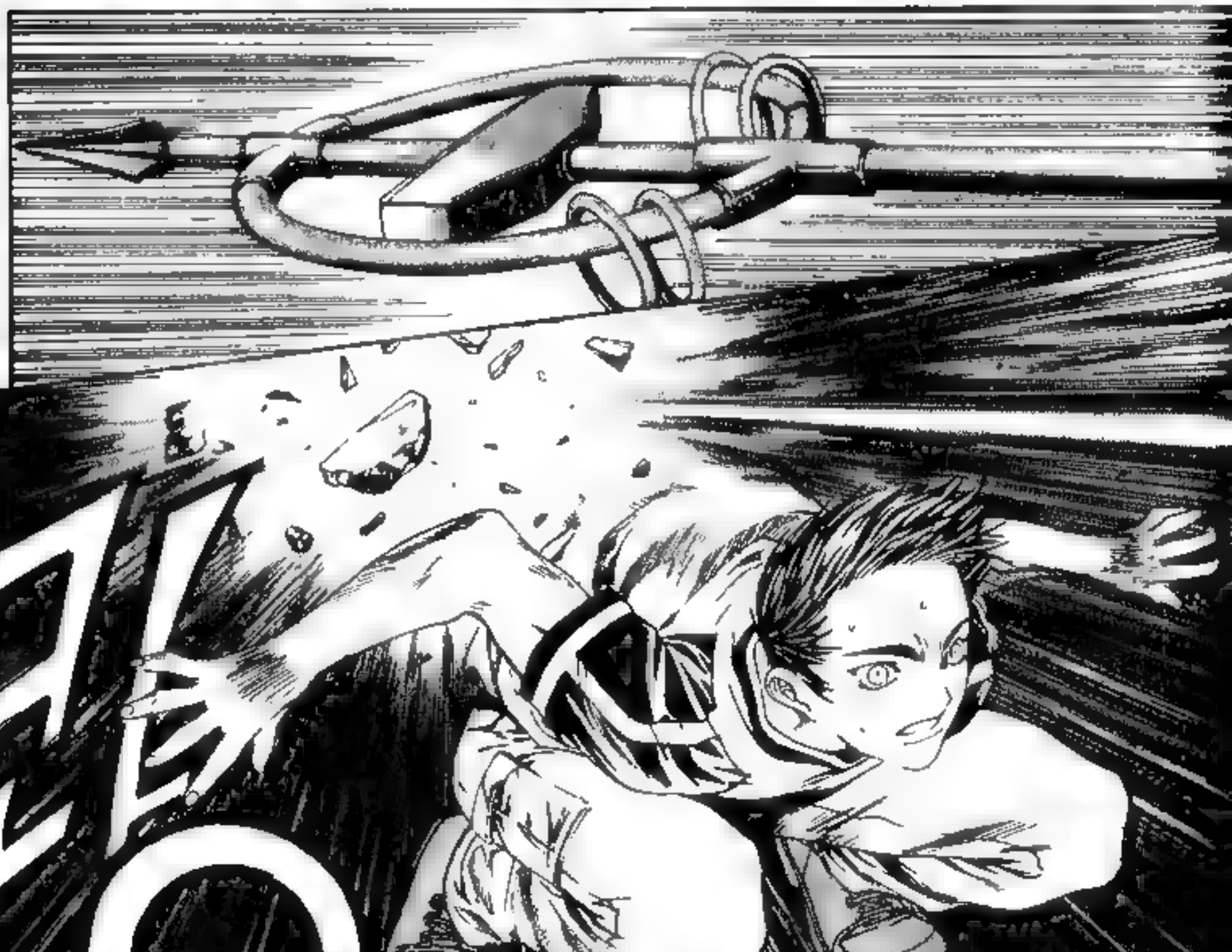
PAN WILL COME TO THE HOUSE SOONER OR LATER.

WHEN THAT DIRTBAG SHOWS UP, I WANT YOU TO CALL ME RIGHT WAY.

YES... I'LL DO THAT.

BY THE WAY...

...DO YOU KNOW WHERE JOHN IS?



OH PASAYA

唵 嚩日噠

SOWAKA!!

發哄 !!

HUH
HE'S USING
AN ESOTERIC
BUDDHIST
INCANTATION!

HIS SPIRITUAL
ENERGY IS
AWE INSPIRING!

BROTHERS MY WORDS
AND MY GOALS ARE
FROM THE LORD'S GOSPEL
IF THERE IS ME AMONG
US WHO INCREASES
THY SUFFERING

WHO TIES
THEE TO THIS
EARTH AND
OBSTRUCTS
THEE FROM
LISTENING

...FIRE WILL FLOW LIKE A GREAT RIVER...

...AND BRING HIM FORTH!

DOOM

DAMN! THAT BASTARD!

HE'S USING CHRISTIAN MAGIC. THAT'S CRAZY THOUGH! HOLY MAGIC CAN'T BE USED FOR ATTACKING!

HU HU HU...

YOU LITTLE BUG, YOUR TRICKS ARE MERE PYROTECHNICS.

I'LL SHOW YOU REAL POWER, *CHOSENJIN*!*

CHOSEN .. WHAT?

*CHOSENJIN: AN INSULT THE JAPANESE USED FOR KOREANS DURING COLONIAL TIMES.

KAAA!!!

WHOA!

MY GOD!

HIS SIMPLEST TOUCH IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TURN ME TO DUST!

AUCH!

WAIT, MONK SEINAN!

I'M CALLING A TIME-OUT!

DUMBASS! YOU TOUCHED A NERVE WITH MONK SEINAN WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE ANOTHER BIRTHDAY, OR A DAY FOR LOVED ONES TO VISIT YOUR GRAVE?

WELL?

LOOK, YOU'VE ALREADY DROPPED THE BOX...

CAN YOU JUST LET IT GO NOW?!

FORGET IT! I MAY NOT HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BEAT YOU GUYS

.. BUT THIS IS A TEST OF MY SPIRIT, AND I MUST FIGHT!

I'M PREPARED TO TAKE THIS ALL THE WAY.

HEY! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

THAT'S A FOUL!

KAAAA!!

TIP

HUFF..

HUFF..

HUFF..

HUH

YOU INSOLENT TRASH...

HOW DARE YOU DAMAGE MY HAT!

YOU! A MERE CHOSENJIN!

LITTLE PUP! YOUR MASTER WILL SHOW YOU MANNERS!

STOP!

STOP ALREADY, MONK SEINAN!

HIS SPIRIT IS DIMINISHING!

PLEASE, STOP!

SHUT UP! THESE PEOPLE WERE ONCE OURS TO RULE!!

BAM

HIT

THUST

MONK SEINAN! THAT'S ENOUGH!

PLEASE, STOP.

SO WA KAI!

娑婆訶!!

I DIDN'T EXPECT BULLETPROOF GLASS!

SHIT...

YOU HAVE WON TODAY...

...BUT SOON I'LL PUT A BULLET THROUGH YOUR HEAD!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KYOICHI?

ARE YOU BETRAYING ME?

DON'T BE AN IDIOT! I DON'T CARE IF THIS BASTARD DIES OR NOT...

...BUT HE'S MINE.

I STILL OWE HIM FOR MESSING WITH ME AT THE ARCADE, SO KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF HIM.

TO BE HONEST, WATCHING HIM USE HIS HOLY POWER IS MAKING ME ITCH FOR A FIGHT.

I WANT TO PIT MY BLACK MAGIC AGAINST HIS SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FIND OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL WHICH IS SUPERIOR.

IF I LET YOU KILL HIM, I MAY NEVER KNOW.

PU-HA-HA! YOU'VE GOT GUTS, FREAK!

ALRIGHT, IT'LL BE GOOD PRACTICE FOR YOU ANYWAY!

JUST MAKE SURE YOU KILL THE RUNT NEXT TIME!

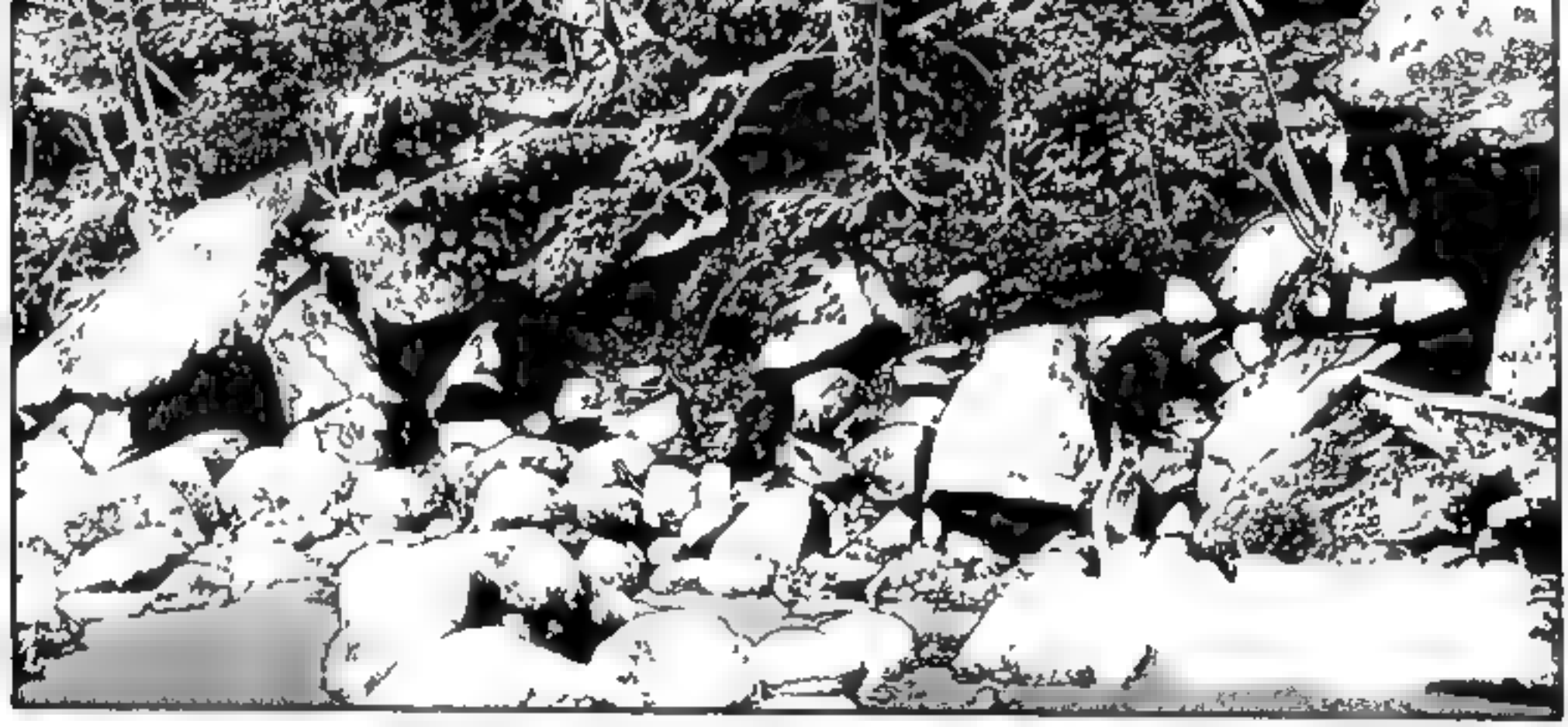
IF YOU DON'T SET AN EXAMPLE, THESE *CHOSENJIN* SCUM WILL STEP ALL OVER YOU!

IS THERE ANY DOUBT?

JOHN CAME WITH ME. HE WENT TO THE BATHROOM... BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

SHOULD I GO CHECK ON HIM?

YES... PLEASE...


UH

UH

NO

YOU?
SHIT...
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT AGAINST US?

YOU SON OF A BITCH... YOU WON'T ANSWER ME? OKAY THEN. I DON'T NEED YOUR CONFESSION TO AVENGE MY BRETHREN.

C'MON! I CHALLENGE YOU, "SCOURGE OF THE BURNING DESIRE DEMONS"!

PAN!

ASS OF

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ANOTHER HOMELAND
PART 8

I'M REALLY SORRY.

I DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED...

I APOLOGIZE ON BEHALF OF MONK SEINAN.

I'M SORRY, MISS WON.

WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING TO ME?

JOHN'S THE ONE YOU PSYCHOS BEAT UP.

WELL, SEEING AS HOW YOU'RE HIS FRIEND AND ALL...

YOU MEAN YOU WOULDN'T HAVE CARED IF I DIDN'T KNOW HIM?

IF JOHN WAS SOME STRANGER, YOU'D JUST KICK THE SHIT OUT OF HIM,

AND NOT GIVE IT A SECOND THOUGHT?

APOLOGY BE DAMNED, NOTHING IS GOING TO STOP YOU FROM GETTING YOUR PRECIOUS SKULLS.

NOT EVEN JOHN'S LIFE!

HA-HA, YOU'RE EXAGGERATING...

YOU BIG DUMMY... WHY DIDN'T YOU GIVE THEM THE BOX?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CAN BE SO DAMN RIGHTEOUS.

HE'LL BE FINE. THE DOCTOR SAYS HE WAS HEALTHIER THAN TEN MEN BEFORE THIS.

WHEN HE FINALLY WAKES UP, I'LL TELL MONK SEINAN TO APOLOGIZE.

LET GO OF MY SHOULDER! DON'T TOUCH ME, EVER!

I'M NOT YOUR PLAYTHING.

OH, BEFORE I FORGET

THE MAD SKULL BOMBER SENT ME A NOTE BEFORE THE ATTACK.

DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE IT?

A NOTE?!

YEAH, IT WAS LIKE A GREETING CARD, LIKE FROM A GIFT.

TO BE EXACT, IT WASN'T REALLY A NOTE, IT WAS A STRANGE PICTURE. IT HAD THE WORD "LIVER" WRITTEN IN KOREAN...

...ALONG WITH THE LETTER "J" AND AN IMAGE OF A KNIFE LAYING ON ITS SIDE.

.....

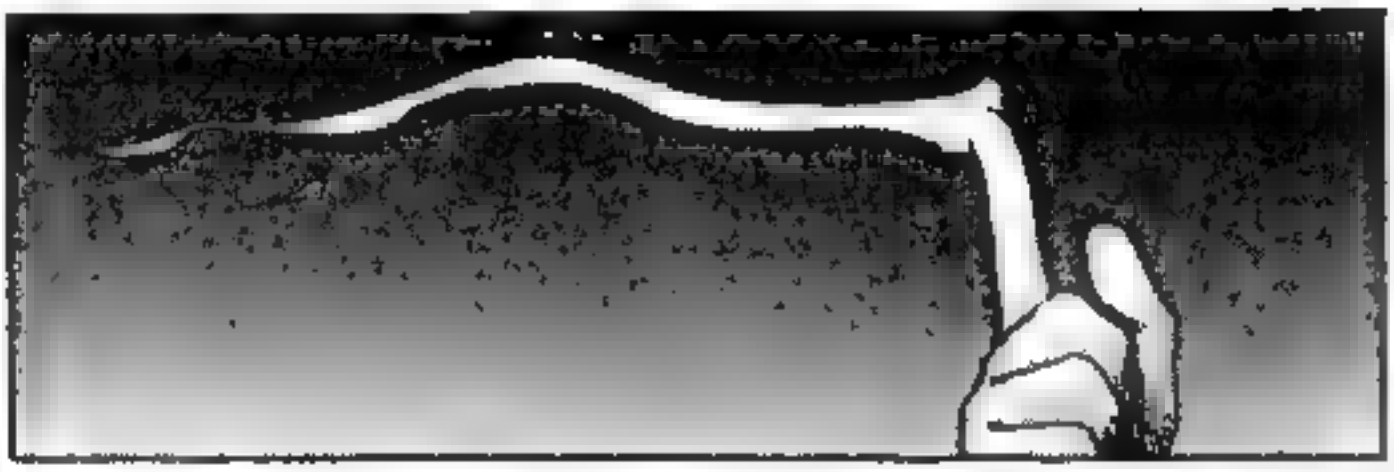
YOU HAVE A GOOD MEMORY.

YES... SO IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER IF IT DOESN'T TURN UP.

I ALREADY MEMORIZED EVERYTHING. I CAN RECREATE IT TO THE LAST DETAIL.

.....

I THINK YOU AND I WILL MAKE A GOOD TEAM, MISS WON.



KOJIMA IS LATE. WHAT'S HE DOING?

GETTING DOWN ON HIS KNEES AND BEGGING HER TO FORGIVE HIM?

I BETCHA HE'S HOT FOR THAT KOREAN WOMAN.

DON'T YOU THINK SO, AIKAWA?

REALLY? I DIDN'T SENSE IT.

EH, WHAT DO YOU KNOW, ANYWAY? WHEN A SHAMAN WHO MAKES HER LIVING WITH HER SENSES SAYS SHE DOESN'T KNOW, THAT MEANS SHE SUCKS AT HER JOB

MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY *SENSING* A LITTLE BIT MORE.

WELL, I COULDN'T VERIFY ANYTHING.

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, HE HAS BEEN OVERLY POLITE TO HER.

FINALLY, A LITTLE COMPETITION IN THE GAME OF LOVE, EH, AIKAWA? I THINK THIS KOREAN MAY HAVE YOU BEAT

YOU'RE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, AFTER ALL. WHAT'S WORSE, YOUR OPPONENT IS THE LONE HEIRESS TO A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR FORTUNE.

GAWD, WHAT'S TAKING THAT GEEZER SO DAMN LONG?

IS HE HOLDING A BUDDHIST MASS OR SOMETHING?

IT'S AN ESOTERIC BUDDHIST INCANTATION. A POWERFUL ONE AT THAT!

JUST BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS, SOMEONE IS USING BUDDHIST MAGIC TO DESTROY DEMONS!!

THEY'RE CALLED GYPSY CARDS.

GYPSIES USED THEM TO TELL FORTUNES IN THE 19TH CENTURY RUSSIA.

THERE ARE TWENTY-FIVE CARDS IN A SET AND EACH CARD HAS A MEANING THAT IS IDENTIFIED BY THE PICTURE ON THE FRONT.

THIS WAS INTENDED AS A MESSAGE.

BY LEAVING THIS CARD AT THE CRIME SCENE, THE CRIMINAL IS TELLING US THAT THE MYSTICAL MEANING OF THE CARD IS IDENTICAL TO HIS OWN.

IT'S ONE OF THE MOST TYPICAL WAYS FOR SERIAL KILLERS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE LAW THAT'S HUNTING THEM.

WHAT'S HE TRYING TO TELL US WITH THE WORD "KAN" - LIVER - AND THE LETTER J, THEN?!

GOOD QUESTION. THIS IS A RUSSIAN MANUAL...

...FOR THE INTERPRETATION OF GYPSY CARDS.

THE MEANING DEPENDS ON HOW YOU SAW THE CARD INITIALLY.

A GYPSY CARD HAS A DIFFERENT MESSAGE DEPENDING ON THE FOUR DIRECTIONS THE PICTURE MAY BE PLACED IN.

SO HOW HE PLACED THE CARD WAS VERY DELIBERATE.

.....

THAT'S RIGHT. THE CRIMINAL HAD TO BE SURE WHICH ENDS WE'D SEE AS THE TOP AND THE BOTTOM OF THE CARD.

HE HAD TO PLACE IT JUST RIGHT SO HIS MEANING WOULD BE CLEAR, RATHER THAN RISK CONFUSING YOU.

FOR INSTANCE, IF YOU WRITE THE LETTERS THIS WAY, THE READER HAS TO FLIP THE CARD RIGHT SIDE UP.

SO OUR GOAL IS TO INTERPRET HIS MESSAGE BASED ON THE STANDARD THE KILLER SET.

THE DAGGER IS LAYING DOWN AND POINTING TO THE RIGHT.

"ESCAPE FROM DANGER THROUGH THE CONSIDERATION OF FRIENDS."

.....

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

I THINK THIS IS A MESSAGE TO YOU PERSONALLY.

I THINK HE PREDICTED THAT YOU'D BE THE ONE TO SURVIVE HIS ATTACK ON THE HOTEL.

A PREDICTION? THE MANIAC COULD FORESEE THAT I'D GET OUT ALIVE?

HANG ON, THERE'S MORE...

"THE CONSIDERATION OF FRIENDS" - I WOULD GUESS THAT MEANS MYSELF AND MY COLLEAGUES.

WHEN THE ATTACK BEGAN, WE WERE JUST A COUPLE OF FLOORS BELOW YOU.

THAT WAS NOT A COINCIDENCE. THIS GUY PUT HIS PLAN INTO MOTION KNOWING THAT WE WERE THERE.

HE KNEW THAT IF TROUBLE STARTED, WE'D COME RUNNING. HE WAS COUNTING ON IT.

HE TIMED THINGS TO GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME AND RESCUE YOU...

"CONSIDERATION OF FRIENDS."

BUT IT TOOK YOU GUYS A WHILE TO GET THERE?

IT'S TRUE WE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE ABOUT TEN MINUTES AFTER IT HAPPENED.

IT SOUNDS LIKE A LAME EXCUSE, BUT WE COULDN'T CATCH THE ELEVATOR.

NO MATTER, YOU'RE ALIVE.

NOT NECESSARILY BECAUSE OF US, BUT YOU STILL MADE IT.

IN SHORT, IT'S JUST AS THE KILLER PREDICTED. IT MEANS THAT THINGS ARE GOING HIS WAY.

SHIT... COULD IT BE HE'S JUST TOYING WITH US?

.....

ARE THERE MORE CARDS?

WHAT?

DIDN'T YOU SAY THE FIRST INCIDENT WAS AT MANJANG CAVE?

THERE MUST'VE BEEN A MESSAGE THERE, TOO?

AH, THERE IS... BUT IT'S DIFFICULT.

THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU AND...

SHOW ME!

SHOW ME THAT MESSAGE!

PLEASE?

WELL, I SHOULDN'T... THIS IS TOP SECRET...

I REALLY SHOULDN'T.

THIS WAS FOUND IN THE HAND OF ONE OF THE BODIES AT MANJANG CAVE.

WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT WAS A MESSAGE AT FIRST.

IT'S A PICTURE OF A HEARSE, AND IT MEANS, "A DISASTER WILL BEFALL."

십자가

IT'S A PRETTY STANDARD MESSAGE... THE KILLER ANNOUNCING THAT HIS MURDERS ARE ONLY JUST BEGINNING.

A CROSS?

THE CROSS MUST REFER TO GOD.

THE CROSS, COMBINED WITH "A DISASTER WILL BEFALL..."

HE'S INVOKING THE JUDGMENT OF GOD.

HE THINKS THAT HE'S GOD, OR MAYBE GOD'S APOSTLE.

IT'S CLEAR THAT HE'S A COMPLETE PSYCHOPATH.

WAIT. THERE'S A LETTER ON THIS, AS WELL?!

THAT'S THE PROBLEM.

THE WORDS "LIVER" AND "CROSS" GO WITH THE IMAGES...

...BUT THE LETTERING IS SOMETHING HE ADDED HIMSELF TO ESTABLISH THE PATTERN.

YOU THINK THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING, DON'T YOU?

THAT'S RIGHT, N...J... THE KILLER IS PLANNING TO SPELL OUT A WORD.

ONCE HE HAS, HE'LL FOLLOW IT UP WITH A FINAL MESSAGE...

...SENT INSIDE ANOTHER DEADLY SKULL.

.....

WHY IS HE DOING THIS?

IT'S ALL SO COMPLICATED, SO WELL PLANNED- WHAT'S HE UP TO?

THIS SEEMS TO GO BEYOND YOUR AVERAGE NUT JOB.

~YAWN~ I'M NOT WAITING ANY LONGER.

LET'S JUST GO BACK TO THE HOTEL, AIKAWA.

MONK SEINAN, WE'RE BUGGING OUT. GET YOUR ASS IN GEAR!

WHO IS THIS PERSON SLAYING DEMONS BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS?!

WHO WOULD HAVE SUCH FIERCE BUDDHIST POWER IN A COUNTRY LIKE THIS?

I'M SICK AND FUCKING TIRED...

...OF YOU GODDAMN BURNING DESIRE DEMONS...

TO BE CONTINUED IN ISLAND BOOK 5!

THE MYSTERY OF THE SKULLS SPIRALS DEEPER AND DEEPER, AS MIHO SEEKS THE HELP OF HER FRIEND SUJIN IN EXAMINING THE SKELETAL REMAINS. AS THE TRUTH SLOWLY BEGINS TO UNRAVEL, THE LINK BETWEEN THE SKULLS AND THE MYSTERIOUS JAPANESE AGENTS COMES MORE CLEARLY INTO THE LIGHT. BUT AS THE CLOSER THEY COME TO ANSWERS, THE MORE THEY REALIZE THERE ARE SOME SECRETS BETTER LEFT BURIED, AND SOME WORTH KILLING FOR TO PROTECT. ANOTHER HOMELAND CONTINUES IN ISLAND BOOK 5.

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